

Guide to Exploring Majors

Consider

- Exploration is good. Embracing the exploration will make the process more enjoyable, more interesting, more informative.
- This is an active, personal process so you'll need to invest some time to arrive at decisions that are right for you.
- Talking with others about your interests will lead you to good information and resources. Absorb the information and determine how it fits with your skills, goals and personality.

Reflect

- What do you want to learn?
- What do you like to read? Discuss?
- What kind of learning is motivating even—or especially—when it is challenging?
- What learning environments or coursework lets you demonstrate your best work (discussion, lecture, lab work, reading journal articles/textbooks/novels/monographs/etc., writing papers, taking exams...)?
- What have been your favorite classes? Why?
- What makes it difficult to choose a major? How might you address those difficulties?
- If you have several interests, how could you prioritize them?

Explore

- [Academic Catalog](#): links to every academic department for an overview of the department, major/minor requirements and a PDF that includes all course descriptions for the department.
 - Note areas of interest, eliminate those not of interest
 - Course descriptions will help you know what the courses are like throughout the major.
 - Identify specific courses you most want to take.
- [Departmental Web Pages](#):
 - Pay attention to your reactions as you read this information. Are you smiling? Are certain departments drawing your attention, causing you to explore more deeply, finding yourself following links to sites well beyond the major?
 - Be certain to review information under “Curriculum” or “Degree Program” that will help you know if there is a specific sequence to the coursework.

Engage

- Talk with teachers, family, and friends about what you find interesting.
- Read newspapers, columns, etc. on subjects of interest.
- Try prioritizing your interests in several different ways (courses of interest; type of interest (career, intellectual curiosity, personal; match with academic strengths; etc.)
- Once on campus, include faculty, academic advisors, and Experience & Professional Development counselors in your exploration.