

Making a Major Decision

careers.ucr.edu
(951) 827-3631

CONNECT. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.

Agenda

**Major Choice:
Fact or Myth**

**The Major
Planning Process**

**Career Center
& Exploration
Resources**

What You'll Learn Today

At the end of this workshop, you will be able to...



Identify Career Center and external resources that will guide you in deciding on your college major



Understand what factors play into what major(s) are right for you and your career ambitions



Debunk myths that your major automatically equals what careers you can choose from





NACE CAREER READINESS COMPETENCIES



*Obtaining **requisite competencies** that broadly prepare college graduates for a **successful transition** into the workplace.*



FACT OR MYTH #1

The vast majority of students find themselves in a career field related to their major.

MYTH



Myth

According to data from Resume Builder, a national survey conducted found that 47% of college-educated workers reported not working in the field of their major. The survey also showed that employment in field of study varies by major.

Resume Builder, 2023

FACT OR MYTH #2

Declaring a major before 2nd year still allows students to graduate in four years.

FACT



Fact

About one third of students change their major at least once. Data shows students who made a FINAL decision by the end of their 2nd year were still able to graduate in four years.

Major exploration can lead to:

- Knowledge of all the options
- Identifying a major that fits interests and skills

National Center for Education Statistics, 2023

FACT OR MYTH #3

Internships are a great way to gain real world experience and often lead to job offers.

FACT

FACT: Most Sought Out Attributes by Employers

Choosing Between Equally Qualified Candidates

FIGURE 48: INFLUENCE OF ATTRIBUTES

ATTRIBUTE	2023 AVERAGE INFLUENCE RATING*	2022 AVERAGE INFLUENCE RATING*	2021 AVERAGE INFLUENCE RATING*
HAS COMPLETED AN INTERNSHIP WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION	4.5	4.4	4.5
HAS INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE IN YOUR INDUSTRY MAJOR	4.3	4.3	4.3
HAS GENERAL WORK EXPERIENCE	3.7	3.8	3.8
HAS HELD LEADERSHIP POSITION	3.7	3.7	3.6
HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CLUBS, SPORTS, STUDENT GOVERNMENT, ETC.)	3.5	3.6	3.6
HAS NO WORK EXPERIENCE	3.3	3.5	3.4
HAS DONE VOLUNTEER WORK	3.2	3.3	3.2
HIGH GPA (3.0 OR ABOVE)	2.9	3.1	3.2
SCHOOL ATTENDED	2.7	2.7	2.8
IS FLUENT IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2.3	2.6	2.5
HAS STUDIED ABROAD	2.1	2.1	2.1
OTHER	1.8	2.0	1.8
	3.8	3.0	3.9

*5-point scale, where 1=No influence at all, 2=Not much influence, 3=Somewhat of an influence, 4=Very much influence, and 5=Extreme influence.

FACT OR MYTH #4

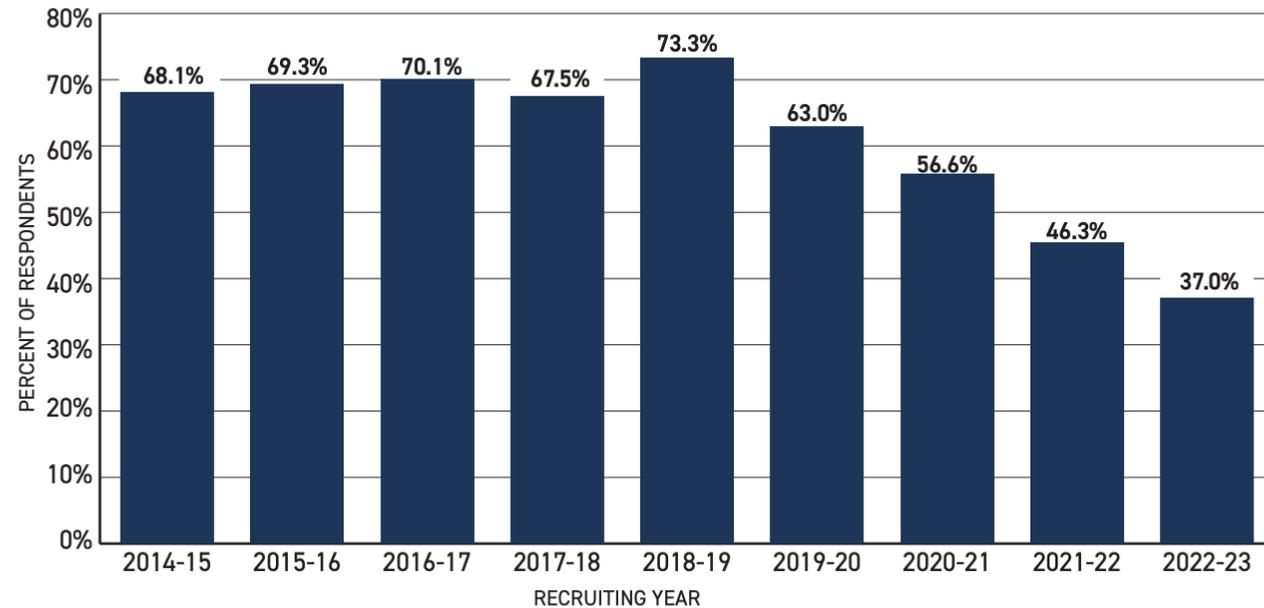
GPA is among the top concerns for employers when hiring prospective students

MYTH

MYTH: Employee's View of Candidates GPA Screening

EMPLOYERS' VIEW OF CANDIDATES GPA Screening

FIGURE 40: SCREEN CANDIDATES BY GPA, BY PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS



CAREER DECISION MAKING PROCESS

KNOW YOURSELF

Identify your values, interests, personality type and skills.

EXPLORE OPTIONS

Research career options.

Start with Why

Answering "why" you want to pursue your career will help inform your career decisions and serve as a strong motivator.

Further develop your skills, network and job search strategy.

TAKE ACTION

Reality-test fields of interest.

GAIN EXPERIENCE



KNOW YOURSELF



The first step in making a career decision is to identify your **values, interests, personality type** and **skills**.

These important “**who am I?**” pieces will help you generate career ideas that may be a good fit.

Activity: Quick Self-Assessment

• Deeply held beliefs about what you MUST have in your life for it to be worth living. Some folks want “enough” money. Some want security or stability. Others want power or prestige. Maybe you want creativity or independence. Values act as a filter for the other pieces

Values

• Things that you LIKE, can get immersed in doing, and lose track of time while involved in them.
• It is likely that these are tasks or activities that you are likely to stick with long enough to master it.

Interests

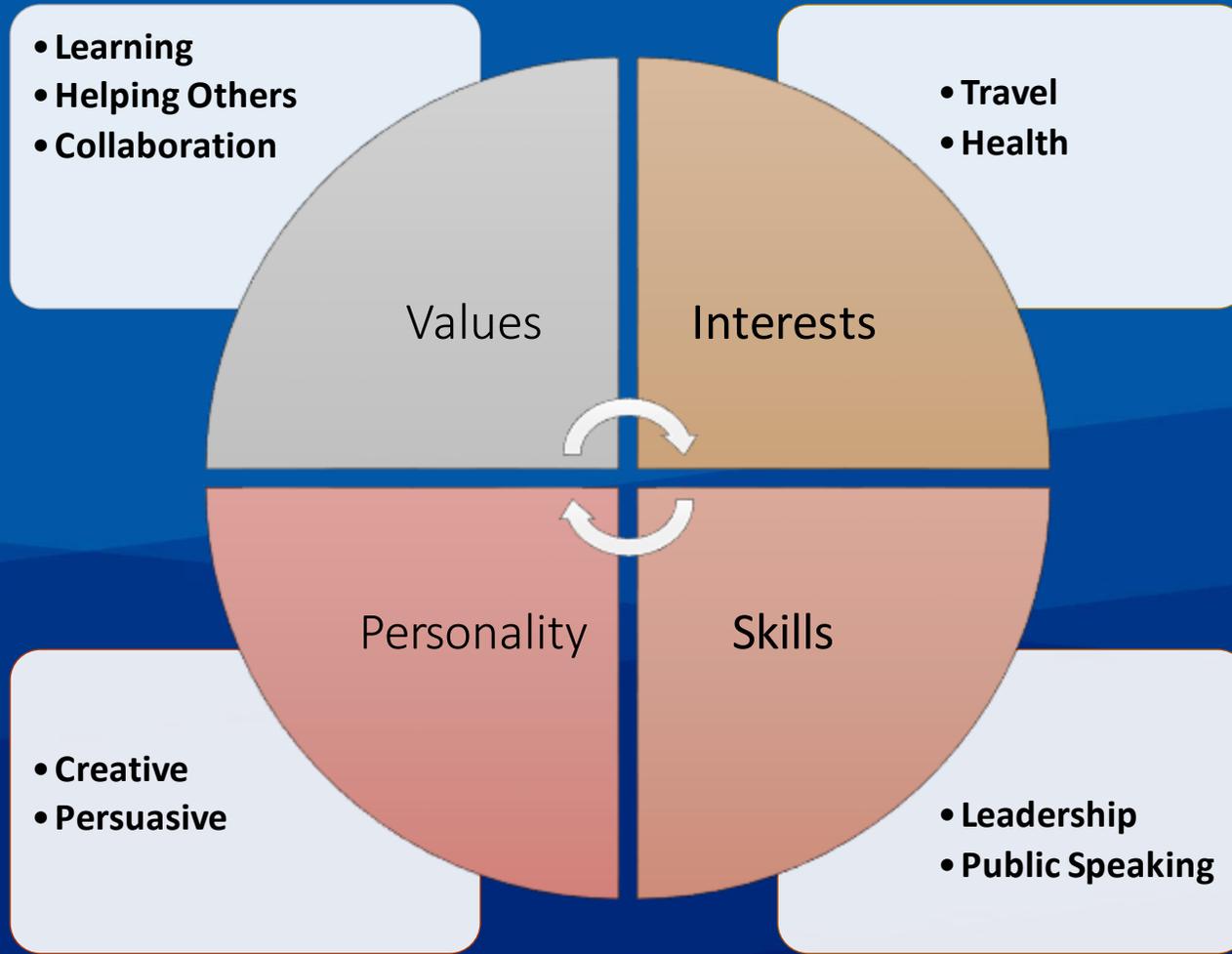
Personality

• How do you process information?
• Are you detail or big-picture oriented?
• How do you make decisions?
• Are you one who uses your head or your heart?
• Do you prefer your time to be scheduled or spontaneous?

Skills

Things you do well. Can be natural talents, strengths, abilities you have acquired through education or training.
• You may have skills using data and information, working with equipment or things, or valuable people skills.

Assess VIPS: Who Am I?



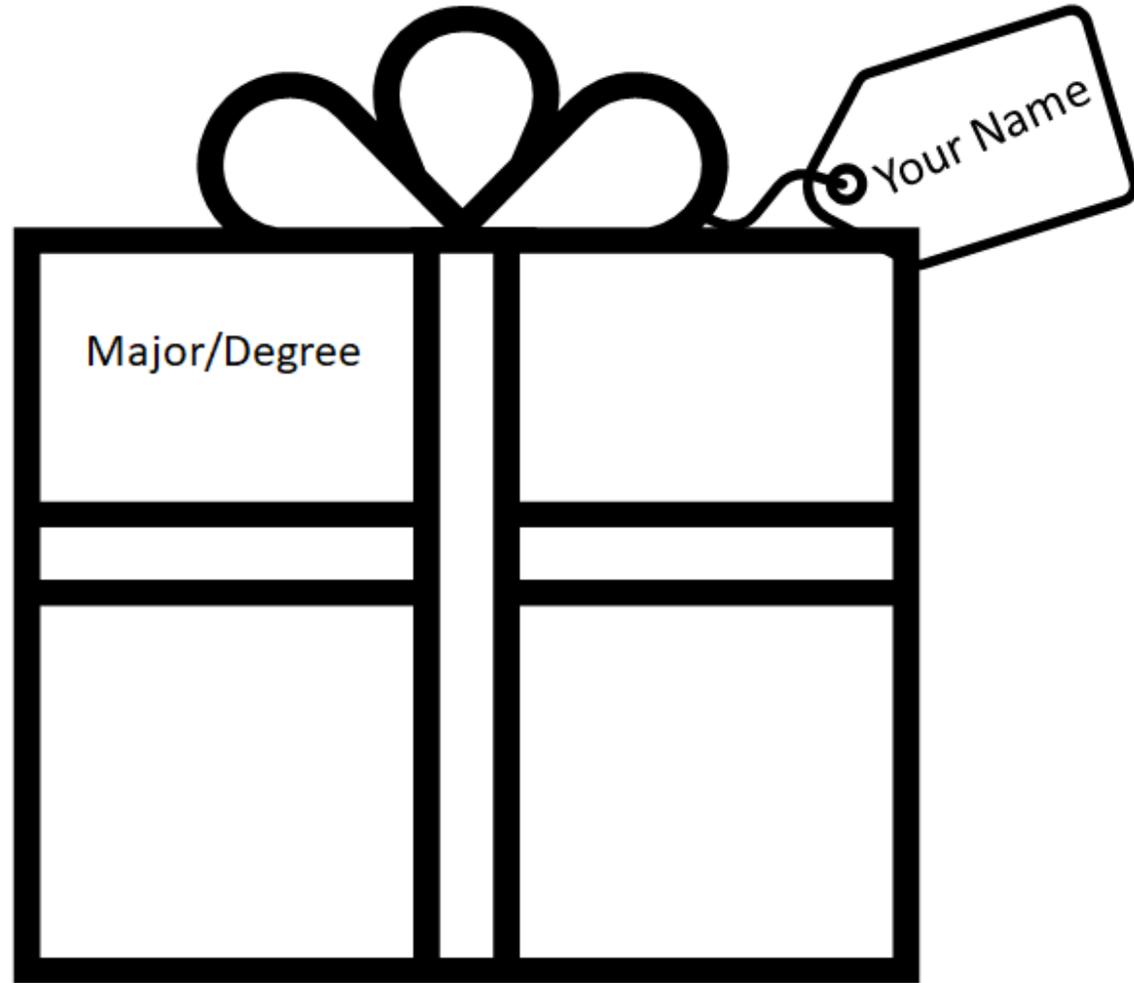
Jonathon



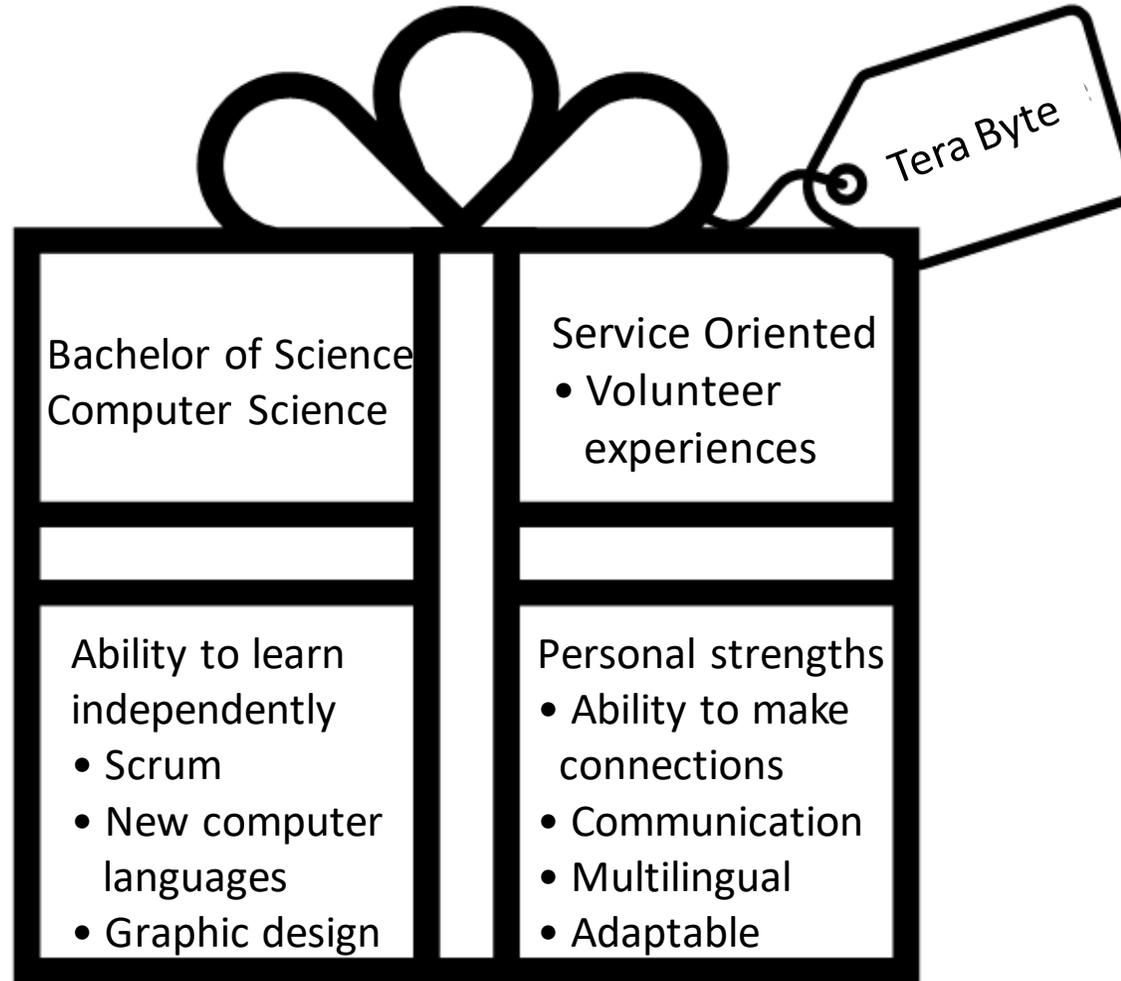
Gift Box Exercise



Gift Box Exercise



Gift Box Exercise





Career Assessment Tools Available:

- Strong Interest Inventory
- Myers Briggs Type Indicator
- Focus 2 (via Handshake)

Assess: Focus 2



**careers.ucr.edu → UCR Handshake → Career Center → Resource
→ Focus 2**

Access Code can be found on Handshake



University of California Riverside Contact Information

FOCUS 2 CAREER - A Career, Major and Education Planning System

USER NAME

PASSWORD

[Forgot password?](#)

[LOGIN](#)

Don't have an account?
Create your own personal account now

[REGISTER](#)

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**First time user, please
create your account
here!**



Your Results ⓘ

Your Personality Type



- You focus your attention on the exploration of new ideas that can lead to improvements that can benefit people.
- Your approach to new projects is to be open minded, flexible and committed to the project goals.
- You like to work with other people who share your values and interests.
- You are enthusiastic, spontaneous, and strive for perfection in subjects that appeal to you.

Choosing Your Career:

People with your personality type are attracted to occupations that can make a contribution to society, help other people, and improve the knowledge and the well being of others. Examples of such occupations are found in the fields of teaching, counseling, health sciences, literature, art and psychology

CONTINUE

Your Results ⓘ



Open Minded, Enthusiastic, Observant, Creative, Spontaneous

[Filter Results](#)[ICON LEGEND](#)

Occupations Matching Your Results

OCCUPATION	SUPPORTING MAJORS/PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-RIVERSIDE	NATIONAL MEDIAN SALARY	JOB FAMILY
ACADEMIC ADVISOR	Education	\$55,030.00	Community & Social Service
ACTOR/ACTRESS	Visual and Performing Arts Dance Theater and Drama Film/Cinema Studies Music	\$74,817.00	Arts, Entertainment, Sports, & Media
ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR	Education	\$36,500.00	Community & Social Service



Explore

Remember that your major doesn't dictate your career. According to LinkedIn profiles, UCR alumni work in a variety of industries and job functions!

Business

Business Development
Operations
Accounting
Education
Information Technology
Program/Project Management

Biology

Healthcare Services
Biotech/Biopharma
Research
Education
Business Development
Community and Social Services

Computer Science

Engineering
Information Technology
Education
Research
Arts and Design
Business Development

Psychology

Healthcare Services
Education
Community and Social Services
Human Resources
Research
Information Technology

Explore

Ask Questions

✓ Talk to...

Academic Advisors

Faculty

3rd/4th Year Students

Student Orgs

Graduate Students

Alumni

Career Specialists

✓ Look for ways to combine interests through your choice of major(s), minor(s) and areas of concentration

✓ Think about the skills/experiences you would like to gain to complement your major

An aerial photograph of a university campus at dusk, with a blue color overlay. A tall, slender tower is the central focus, with a yellow arrow pointing to its top. The text "What resources are available?" is overlaid in white.

**What resources are
available?**



Exploration Resources

- **Course Catalog (p. 6 & 7)**

<https://registrar.ucr.edu/registering/catalog>

- **What Can I Do With This Major?**

<https://careers.ucr.edu/resources/career-planning/explore-options>

- **LinkedIn Alumni**

What was their major and what career path did they pursue?

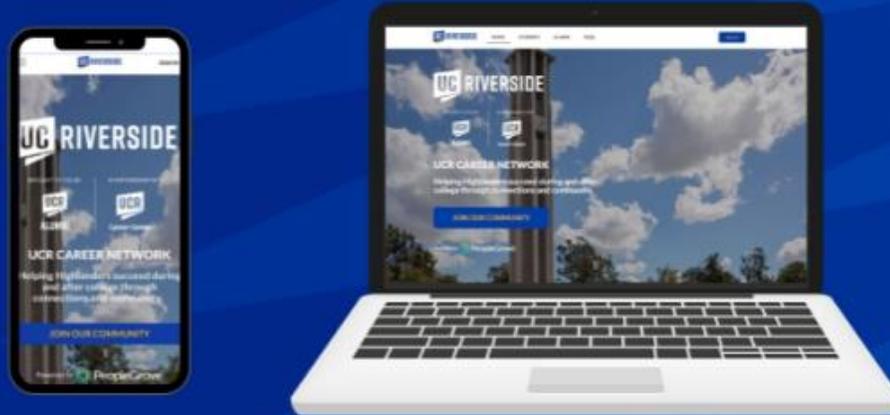
<https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-california-riverside/people/>

- **ONET (Occupational Information Network)**

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

- **OOH (Occupational Outlook Handbook)**

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh>



Join the UCR Career Network, an online community for networking, mentoring, and job opportunities for alumni and students.

MENTORING

Matching process that connects current students with alumni or alumni with one another.

JOB SEARCH

Job board for those currently seeking employment or for alumni looking to hire other Highlanders.

NETWORKING

Discussion boards to meet and network with others who have similar career questions.

REGISTER AT [CAREERNETWORK.UCR.EDU](https://careernetwork.ucr.edu)



**What questions do
you have?**

Location: We are located in the Career Center Plaza. Our entrance is the University Lecture Hall and the Surge Building, behind the UCR Campus Store.

Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8 am to 5 pm

Individual counseling appointments available

Schedule on Handshake

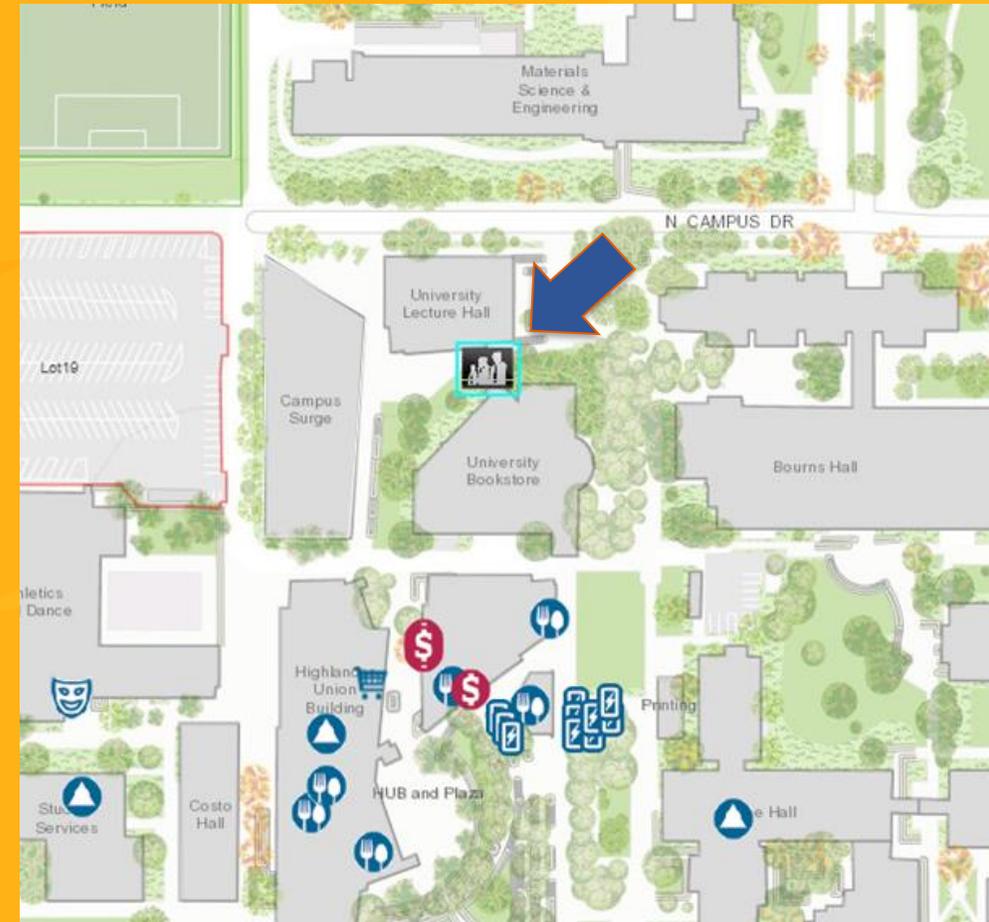
Drop-in Hours:

Mon. - Fri. (days & times vary)

View drop-in schedule on our website <https://careers.ucr.edu/>



Career Center



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