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

UC Riverside Career Center
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

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

*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.

2023 National Association of Colleges and Employers. All rights reserved
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

![Graph showing EMPLOYERS' VIEW OF CANDIDATES GPA Screening]

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

- 2014-15: 68.1%
- 2015-16: 69.3%
- 2016-17: 70.1%
- 2017-18: 67.5%
- 2018-19: 73.3%
- 2019-20: 63.0%
- 2020-21: 56.6%
- 2021-22: 46.3%
- 2022-23: 37.0%

NACE Job Outlook 2023 Annual Report
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.

TAKE ACTION
Further develop your skills, network and job search strategy.

GAIN EXPERIENCE
Reality-test fields of interest.
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

- **Values**: 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.

- **Interests**: 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.

- **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?

- Values
  - Learning
  - Helping Others
  - Collaboration

- Interests
  - Travel
  - Health

- Personality
  - Creative
  - Persuasive

- Skills
  - Leadership
  - Public Speaking

Jonathon
Gift Box Exercise
Gift Box Exercise
Gift Box Exercise

Bachelor of Science
Computer Science

Service Oriented
• Volunteer experiences

Ability to learn independently
• Scrum
• New computer languages
• Graphic design

Personal strengths
• Ability to make connections
• Communication
• Multilingual
• Adaptable
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
First time user, please create your account here!
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.
### Your Results

- Open Minded, Enthusiastic, Observant, Creative, Spontaneous

### Occupations Matching Your Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Supporting Majors/Programs</th>
<th>National Median Salary</th>
<th>Job Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC ADVISOR</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$55,030.00</td>
<td>Community &amp; Social Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTOR/ACTRESS</td>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td>$74,817.00</td>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, Sports, &amp; Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theater and Drama</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Film/Cinema Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$36,500.00</td>
<td>Community &amp; Social Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

UCR RIVERSIDE Career Center
Explore
Ask Questions

✓ Talk to...
  - Academic Advisors
  - Graduate Students
  - Faculty
  - Alumni
  - 3rd/4th Year Students
  - Career Specialists
  - Student Orgs

✓ 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
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
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/](https://careers.ucr.edu/)