

## Think about Your Future: College and Beyond

### What Should I Do For the Rest of My Life?!

One day, you'll have to select a college major and/or a career. Whether you're thinking about your major at college or prepping for a career, there are things you can do now to help you make a decision.

#### Target Your Interests

- What subjects or classes have you enjoyed in school?
- Write down extracurricular activities or job tasks that you have enjoyed.
- Brainstorm majors or jobs that seem interesting to you. Is there a pattern to any of the above?
- Take a personality test to find out what major or job field might suit you.
- Take a look at a prospective college's course book. What course topics catch your interest?
- Talk to your high school counselor for more ideas!

#### Discover Your Values

- Do you want to study a broad topic that will apply to many jobs or a major that will prepare you for a specific career?
- Think about what you want to accomplish in the long term. Is it related to money? Status? Giving back to the community at large? Helping people? A job that will allow you life balance?

#### Expand Your Knowledge

- Talk to people who work in your fields of interest. Ask about their day-to-day experiences in those fields. How did they choose their careers or majors (if they went to college)?
- Ask your teachers, parents and parents' friends about their careers. What should you expect if you major or get a job in one of their fields?
- Ask if you can "job-shadow" a parent or family friend. Visit his or her workplace to get a taste of what a typical workday is like.
- Check out career profiles at [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com).

#### Change Your Mind (It's OK!)

- Studies show that a majority of college students change their major at least once.
- The average college graduate changes jobs once every three years and changes their career fields two or three times over a lifetime.
- The earlier you start thinking about your major and career, the closer you'll be to realizing your life goals.

**Need money for college? Find your dream school!**

**Search for scholarships and colleges that match you - for FREE!**

**[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)**

#### Discover a Major the Online Way

Confused about your major? Just curious to know what's out there? Use colleges' departmental websites to discover information about possible majors.

*How do I find this info?*

1. Go to the school's website.
2. Look for links such as "Current Students," "Academics," "Degrees," etc. Different colleges may use different wording. Click on one of these links.
3. After clicking the link from Step 2, select the academic discipline you want to learn about.
4. Try to find the course selection list. You may find it in either the "Prospective Student" or the "Current Student" section.

*What do I do once I get there?*

- Many college websites will list their classes, with a description of each one. Do those courses sound interesting to you?
- Does the academic page in your field of interest have an "Events" or "Calendar" link? You can check out any extra things a college offers for students in that major.
- Does the site have access to newsletters or other announcements and events within the department? Look for a sense of the atmosphere in that major. Is it cutting edge? Conservative?
- You might be able to find information on what the college/department is currently researching. Do those programs and projects excite and motivate you?