

## Think About Your Future: College and Beyond

### What Will 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 academic 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 academic majors or jobs that seem interesting to you.
- Take a personality test to find out what academic major or occupation might suit you.
- Take a look at a prospective college's course catalog. What course topics catch your interest?
- Talk to your high school counselor, friends and family!

#### Discover Your Values

- Do you want to study a broad topic that will apply to many jobs or an academic major that will prepare you for a specific career?
- Consider what you want to accomplish in the long term.
  - Is it related to money? Status? Power?
  - Giving back to the community at large?
  - Helping people?
  - A job that will allow you work/life balance?
  - Advance the development of your field?

#### 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 at his or her workplace.
- Check out [Monster's Career Start](#) to learn about qualifications, skills and duties regarding specific jobs.

### Discover an Academic Major

Confused about choosing a major? Just curious to know what's out there? Consider using a decision matrix like the one shown below. You can also use colleges' departmental websites to discover information about possible majors.

#### How do I find this information?

1. Go to the college's website.
2. Look for links such as "Current Students," "Academics," "Degrees," different colleges may use different wording.
3. After clicking the link from Step 2, select the academic major you want to learn about or study.
4. Try to find the course selection list in the course catalog. You may find it in either the "Prospective Student" or the "Current Student" section.

#### What do I do once I find this information?

- Many college websites will list their classes, course materials and videotaped lectures online. 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 many extra activities a college offers for students in that academic major.
- Does the site have access to newsletters or other announcements and events within the department? Look for a sense of the academic atmosphere in that major. Is it interesting to you?
- You might be able to find information on what the college/department is currently researching. Do those programs and projects excite and motivate you?

**Decision Matrix:** Rank each major based on the factors important to you using a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (highest). The major with the highest total will be the best fit based on the factors important to you.

Major	Interesting	Money	Happiness	Status	Power	Community (Help Others)	Hours (Work/Life Balance)	TOTALS
Possible Major 1								
Possible Major 2								
Possible Major 3								