

# Choosing a Major

## Self Assessment

### • Ask yourself:

What are your skills and abilities?

What are your interests?

What learning/testing style are you most comfortable with?

- ▶ Do you prefer problem solving over reading?
- ▶ Written exams over multiple choice?

*Many majors have a certain style for learning and test taking*

What are you looking for in a career?

- ▶ Money? Job security? Prestige? Creativity?

*Many jobs don't require a certain major, but some do*

• **Take an assessment** such as the Strong Interest Inventory or the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (*make an appointment with a career counselor for more information*)

## Research Careers

*If you have one in mind*

• **Use your network** (including LinkedIn) to find alumni and community members in various fields and conduct informational interviews. Ask what major they were, if a certain major is required for that field, and what they recommend for a student looking to work in that field some day.

• **Gain experience** in that field through an internship, volunteer experience, research project, etc.

## Research Majors

• **View** the *General Catalogue* online at [catalogue.uci.edu/welcome](http://catalogue.uci.edu/welcome) and eliminate all majors that do not interest you

• **Research all remaining majors** by viewing their department's website and/or speaking with an academic advisor.

Make note of:

- Prerequisites
- Minimum GPA to enter major
- Are students in the major on a set track, or can you take classes whenever you want?
- What types of classes will you be able to take?
- What are your career options after graduation?

• **If you have not chosen a major yet**, make an appointment with a career counselor to help with the decision making process.

## True Fact

*It is believed that up to 50% of students change their major at least once. Some students change their major two or three times.*

Not sure if you should change your major? Try this test taken from [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).

Give yourself one point for every question you answer YES.

- Do you get bored in your current major's classes?
- Are you doing poorly in your current major's classes?
- Did you choose your major without much thought?
- Do you keep reading/asking about other majors?
- Do you keep entertaining the idea of switching majors?

**0 - 1 points:** You're probably fine staying where you are

**2 points:** Think about changing your major and talk with a career counselor about it

**3 - 5 points:** It's probably time to change your major

## Major ≠ Career

*Keep in mind that you may pursue many kinds of careers with each major. Skills and experience will also be important factors that impact your career options.*