Choosing a Major

Objectives 1A and 1B

1A. To identify what factors are important to you in selecting a major.

1B. To discover fields of study that you might find interesting.

Activities to Help You Achieve These Objectives

- Attend a Pizza and a Major workshops. See a Career Advisor or view the Events Calendar on the Career Center Web site at career.fsu.edu.
- Complete Steps 1-6 of the Choosing a Major or Occupation guide (pages 2-7) and discuss your situation with a Career Advisor (http://career.fsu.edu/Resources/Career-Guides).
- Complete appropriate self-assessment activities such as the Self-Directed Search (speak to a Career Advisor to access assessments).
- Review Quick Guide, Exploring your Interests, Values, and Skills, and discuss your situation with a Career Advisor.
- Review the “FSU Undergraduate Programs by Holland Code” sheet to identify FSU programs consistent with your self-assessment (ask a Career Advisor for this handout).

Objectives 2A and 2B

2A. To broaden your general awareness of majors available at Florida State and elsewhere.

2B. To find detailed information about specific majors.

Activities to Help You Achieve These Objective

- Examine select resources in the Career Library:
  - Making Your Major Decision .................................................................................................................. IA P4
  - Panicked Student's Guide to Choosing a College Major ........................................................................ IA S45
  - Chronicle Four-Year College Databook ................................................................................................... IIIB C45
  - College Majors and Careers: A Resource Guide for Effective Life Planning .................................. IIC AA P4
  - The College Board Book of Majors ........................................................................................................ IIIB C1 M3
  - College Majors Handbook with Real Career Paths and Payoffs ...................................................... IIC AA F6
- Use the FSU Majors Card Sort to help identify majors that would be of interest to you.
- Review college majors using an online resource at collegemajors101.com.
- Learn more about specific majors available at FSU:
  i. See the Florida State University General Bulletin for a list of degree and certificate programs. Visit the registrar.fsu.edu site to review the General Bulletin.
  ii. Get specific information about majors that interest you in the Undergraduate Academic

iii. Perform a computer search using Career Key to locate Career Center Library resources which focus on majors of interest to you.

iv. Review printed materials on FSU Academic Programs in section III of the Career Center Library.

v. Refer to the Faculty Resource Directory, at the Career Advisor desk, to find faculty and advisor names and phone numbers, or use the Advisor Search Function at: http://advisingfirst.fsu.edu/Team/Find-Your-Advisor. Make an appointment with a faculty member, advisor, or departmental staff member to gain more information about a particular major.

• Learn more about majors available at other colleges/universities:
  
  i. Use directories in the Career Center Library to identify institutions with programs in which you have an interest.

  ii. Perform a search in SIGI3 to identify institutions which may offer programs in your field(s) of interest (see a Career Advisor for access to the systems).

  iii. Within ‘Go to College’ at http://www.floridashines.org/, select ‘Search College & University Profiles’ to gather information on what institutions in the state offer programs of interest.

• Obtain further information about programs at other institutions:

  i. Write, call, or e-mail institutions and/or specific departments for catalogs and academic program information.

  ii. Conduct a search on the Internet for information sites on institutions in which you have an interest.

  iii. Search out catalogs available on the FSU campus.

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Objective 3

3. To enhance your ability to make an informed decision.

Activities to Help You Achieve This Objective


• Review A Guide To Good Decision Making (ask a Career Advisor for access).

• Complete the Guide to Good Decision-Making exercise (ask a Career Advisor for access).

• Talk to a Career Advisor about special problems getting in the way of your major decision.