

CHOOSING A MAJOR

What factors will you consider when choosing a major? Some career choices, such as accounting and engineering, require specific majors. However, most career fields are not based on specific majors. Your choice of a major is only one factor in determining your job prospects and career path. Your grades, your electives, and the skills you acquire in and out of the classroom also tell employers what you have to offer.

Identify your choices

Before you can choose a major, you need to know your options and consider what you enjoy.

- Visit Career Services to play the *Majors Game*, a card sort that includes the majors and minors at USD.
- Take your Core Curriculum courses seriously. Try a variety of courses to determine what areas interest you and spark your enthusiasm.

Learn more about your favorites

Once you have identified some possibilities, learn more about them.

- Talk to preceptors, faculty, career counselors, and upper division students about majors.
- Spend some time reading the Undergraduate Bulletin. Review the course descriptions, requirements, and options for various majors. Visit the bookstore and look at the books for different classes.
- Take two classes in a subject that interests you. Ask faculty or advisors for guidance on which courses offer the best exploration opportunities.

Consider the relationship to careers

Find out how majors relate to career choices.

- Read more about how majors might relate to careers at the following sites. These links can be accessed through the Career Services website at www.sandiego.edu/careers. Select *Students*, then *Choosing a Major & Career Exploration*.

[What Can I Do With This Major?](http://www.sandiego.edu/careers/majors/whatmajor.php)

www.sandiego.edu/careers/majors/whatmajor.php

Job titles, career paths, and skills related to various majors

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)

www.bls.gov/oco/

Detailed descriptions of many jobs and career fields

[O*Net – Occupational Information Network](http://online.onetcenter.org/)

<http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Information on key attributes and characteristics of workers and occupations

[America's Career InfoNet](http://www.acinet.org/acinet/)

www.acinet.org/acinet/ (click on "Videos")

Career videos featuring nearly 450 different areas

- Attend a meeting of a student organization related to your field of interest. Are you comfortable with the people and interested in the subjects discussed?
- Schedule "information interviews" with professionals to see the environment and day-to-day activities of particular occupations. Ask Career Services or faculty for contact names and tips on conducting information interviews.

Continue your exploration

There are many people at USD who can help you explore your major choices.

- Take the information you discover and new questions to your preceptor.
- Visit Career Services. Talk with a career counselor, complete career assessments, and look at career resources about the majors or occupations you find interesting.