Exploring Majors

Whether you are exploring majors for the first time or considering changing your major, use this guide to learn more about yourself, explore and research careers, narrow your focus, test drive careers of interest, and make major decisions. Receive guidance from Career Services throughout your major exploration journey.

**Step 1: Learn About Yourself**
Take some time to understand more about yourself. Think about the following questions:
- What are your dreams?
- What are your interests?
- What do you enjoy working with (people, data, things, ideas, etc...)?
- What are your skills?
- What do you excel at?
- What are your strengths?
- What do you value?

Take the TypeFocus assessment. This free assessment tool can be found on Eagle Career Network. TypeFocus assessments measure three interactive concepts which include personality, interests, and values.

**Step 2: Learn About Careers and Majors**
- Explore possible majors at NCCU
- Research career possibilities using the following resources as a starting point:
  - O*NET Online
    http://www.onetonline.org/
  - Occupational Outlook Handbook
    http://www.bls.gov/ooh/
- Talk to current students about their majors and career interests
- Talk with faculty and advisors from colleges and departments on campus

**Step 3: Narrow the Focus**
- Match your personality, interests, skills, and values with possible careers
- Receive guidance from Career Services to discuss your TypeFocus assessment results
- Go to TypeFocus and explore occupations that TypeFocus has matched against your assessment
- Use TypeFocus to identify a strong, medium, or weak match
- Identify the careers that are realistic and narrow your list by considering your skills
- Use TypeFocus or www.onetonline.org to identify the majors needed for these careers

**Step 4: Consult & Research**
- Attend academic major career fairs
- Talk to friends, alumni, friends, faculty, and advisors
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in your field(s) of interest

**Step 5: Test Drive**
Test drive your career(s) of interest through first-hand experience.
- Job shadow a professional
- Volunteer
- Obtain an internship
- Work part-time/student work aid

**Step 6: Make Decisions**
Decide on a major, but keep in mind:
- No major is perfect or can meet all your needs
- This is not a final decision— you are free to change careers throughout your life
- Choosing a major does not limit you to one career
- Keep your options open
- Can’t decide between two majors? Consider a double major

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Scan the QR code for additional Career Services resources.
Myths About College Majors

Everyone knows what they are going to major in.
This is far from true. Many students enter college without a clear understanding of what they want to major in. It is perfectly normal to explore majors and decide on the one that is right for you. Even students who enter college knowing what they want to major in may ultimately change their mind at some point in their college career.

All jobs require specific majors.
In reality, few majors directly transfer to one specific job or career. Employers are seeking well-rounded candidates with transferable skills, not an individual in one specific major. There are a few professional fields that require a license, such as nursing, accounting, and education. These may require a specific major and degree. However, most majors and career fields allow for considerable flexibility.

My major will determine what I do for the rest of my life.
This is up to you and how your interest and skills develop over time. Your career may take a linear path, or you may find that you branch off and enter new fields during the course of your working career. It is very common for people to change careers throughout the course of their lives. Your major does not lock you in to a specific job forever!

Once I decide my major, I cannot change my mind.
Many students change majors in college.

There is only one perfect career for me.
You may find that there are several careers and majors that match your interests, abilities, values, and personality. Your major will prepare you for a variety of career possibilities.

A career assessment, such as TypeFocus, can tell me what to major in.
Career assessments can help you reflect on your interests, values, personality, and strengths, but they do not give you a simple answer regarding what you should major in. They can, however, suggest potential majors or careers for you to explore and learn more about.

Adapted from: Pace University Center for Academic Excellence

O*NET Online
www.onetonline.org
Detailed descriptions of the world of work for job seekers. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Occupational Outlook Handbook
www.bls.gov/ooh

Career One Stop
www.careeronestop.org/
Career information to help job seekers, students, and career professionals. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.

What Can I Do With This Major?
http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/
Information to help you connect majors to careers. Developed by the University of Tennessee.

NCCU Majors

Art
Art (General) • Studio • Visual Communications

Biology
Biology (General) • Pre-Medicine and Pre-Dentistry

Business
Accounting • Finance • Hospitality and Tourism Management • Marketing • Computer Science and Business

Chemistry
ACS-Certified Chemistry • Chemistry Forensic Science • Pharmaceutical Science Pre-Medicine/Dentistry/Pharmacy

Criminal Justice
Criminal Justice

History
History • History (with Licensure) • Social Studies

Human Sciences

Language and Literature
English Education • English Literature Spanish (without License) • Spanish (with License)

Mass Communications
Mass Communication, Broadcast Media Mass Communication, Comm Studies Mass Communication, Journalism

Mathematics and Physics
Environmental Physics • Mathematics • Physics Secondary Education

Music

Nursing
ABSN (Accelerated) • RN-BSN • Traditional BSN

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Physical Education and Recreation
Athletic Training • Exercise Sport Science Fitness and Wellness Health Promotion and Wellness Licensure Parks and Recreation Management Parks and Therapeutic Recreation Recreational Sport Management

Political Science
Political Science

Psychology
Psychology

Public Health Education
Community Health Education

Social Work
Social Work

Theatre
Communications • K-12 Education Management and Administration