

Choosing a Major

one

3 Steps to Choosing a Major

Self Assessment

- Ask yourself:
 - ❑ What are your major skills?
 - ❑ What are your interests?
 - ❑ What learning/testing style are you most comfortable with?
 - ▶ Do you prefer problem solving over reading?
 - ▶ Writing exams over multiple choice? Many majors have 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 a self assessment such as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator or Strong Interest Inventory (make an appointment with a Career Counselor for more info)

TRUE fact

It is believed that up to 50% of students change their major at least once. Some students change their major 2 or 3 times.

Not sure if you should change your major? Try this test taken from www.fastweb.com. Give yourself 1 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

two

Research Careers (if you have one in mind)

- Use the Career Connections Directory (www.career.uci.edu) 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.

three

Research Majors

- Pick up a copy of the *General Catalogue* at the UCI Bookstore (or go to www.uci.edu and type "majors" in the search box) 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:
 - ❑ Pre-requisites
 - ❑ Minimum GPA to enter the major
 - ❑ Units required to graduate
 - ❑ Are students in the major on a set track, or can you take classes whenever you want?
 - ❑ What are your career options after graduation?
- If you have not chosen a major yet, your list should be narrowed down to no more than 5 majors. Make an appointment with a Career Counselor to help with the decision making process.

Your **Major** is a part of the process that leads to earning a degree and is based on something you enjoy *learning* about.

Your **Career** is the sum total of your life's experiences and is something you enjoy *doing*.