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?
    - Writing exams over multiple choice? Many majors have a certain style for learning and test taking
  - What are you looking for in a career?
    - Many jobs don’t require a certain major, but some do
- Take a self assessment such as the Strong Interest or Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Inventory (make an appointment with a Career Counselor for more info)

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
- 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 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 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

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