

Special points of interest:

- Major vs. Career Decision
- Making your advising appointment
- Good questions for the exploring process
- How students choose their major

According to the *National Association of Colleges and Employers* the majority of students who have responded to the *Graduating Student & Alumni Survey* over the years have said that they chose their major because they like the kind of work it will allow them to do. This year's respondents followed suit, with 66.8% choosing their major for that reason. The second largest group (16.1%) said that they "sort of drifted" into their majors, and 6.1% based the decision on the earning potential of their majors. Another 5.4% of respondents reported that they followed a family member or a friend's idea to help them choose their majors, and the remaining 5.6% of respondents listed other reasons as to how they chose their majors.

(Accessed from <http://www.naceweb.org/pubs/journal/su06/konczgiordani.htm> on March 12, 2007.)



UC Post: *Post Spring Break Edition*



Picking a Major and a Career are NOT the Same Thing!

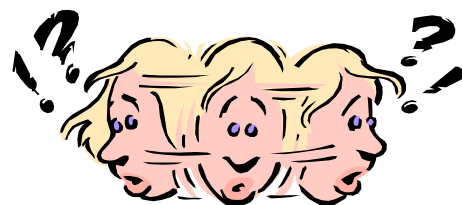
Students often think that choosing a major is the same thing as choosing a career (and vice-versa). Although these two choices are related, choosing one doesn't automatically mean you've chosen the other. Here are just a few examples:

1. Some people assume that students who major in the arts, humanities, or social sciences are either not qualified for any jobs ("What can you do with a degree in philosophy?") or qualified only for careers in those specific areas.

Actually, students who major in theatre, history, psychology, and similar majors do find jobs in business, research, human resources, teaching, the military, and a variety of other occupations.

2. Many students who decide they want to be a lawyer automatically assume that they should major in pre-law. The reality is that a student can choose any major and still be accepted into law school. (By the way, URI doesn't have a pre-law major, but does have advisors to help you prepare for law school.)

3. Many students who decide they want to be a doctor assume they should major in pre-med. But students can major in many different areas and still qualify for medical school, as long as they take the right courses, do well on the Medical College Admission Test, etc.



4. A group of students graduating from one major could be employed in many different jobs; likewise, a group of people employed in one job could have graduated from many different majors.

Choosing a major doesn't limit you to just one career; choosing a career doesn't limit you to just one major.

(Accessed from <http://www.psu.edu/dus/md/mdmisper.htm#mis1> on March 1, 2007)

Time to Make Your Advising Appointment!

It's about that time again, when you and your friends begin talking about classes for next semester more than the lunch menu at *the Butt*. REMEMBER: If you have less than 24 credits and/or are on probation (<2.0 GPA) you have an advising hold on your account until you meet with your academic advisor. Appointments fill up quickly, so make yours now!

Forgot how? Follow these simple steps:

- Sign into E-Campus
- URI Advisement > URI Advisement> Student> Make Appointment With Advisor.
- Use the drop down menu to select your advisor then click "Make appointment with advisor."
- Select a time, confirm your contact

Ask Yourself This...

Ever wonder how the Professional advisors work their magic to help you discover your true calling? Well, the *truth* is, you've got the answers, but aren't asking yourself the right questions. Before your next advising appointment try asking yourself the following questions:

Interests

What activities absorb my attention?
 What situations energize me?
 What words would I use to describe myself?
 How would others describe me?
 What do I dream of doing, but never seem to get to?
 What subject areas am I most passionate about?

Skills

What activities am I best at?
 What are my strengths and weaknesses?
 What skills do I want to use in a job?
 What skills do I need to develop?

Values

What personal rewards do I seek in a career?
 In what ways must I be challenged on the job?
 What activities bring me greatest satisfaction?
 In what type of work environment would I be happy?

Personal Traits

What personal qualities will help me be successful at work?
 Am I able to get along with supervisors? Co-workers? The public?
 Does my personal style enhance my work with people, data or things?

Once you've got your answers, bring them with you to your next advising appointment and talk about them with your advisor.

(Adapted from <http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/academics/introundec.pdf>)

Review of University College Academic Advising Resources

Faculty Advisors: UC Faculty Advisors are "content" advisors and help students to map out their short and long-term academic plan. They also make sure that you are staying on track with your entrance into your college of choice, and ultimately, graduation.

Professional Advisors: UC Professional Advisors specialize in working with undeclared students and have special expertise in university policy and procedure as well.

Peer Advisors: UC Peer Advisors are upper-classmen students who see students on a walk-in basis, communicate with UC students via IM and email, and are available in the Rockett Room when classes are in session for quick questions and advice weekdays from 10 – 11:45am in room 108 Roosevelt Hall.

The Rockett Room: Students are invited to use the computers, review materials about different majors at URI in the major resource binders located in Roosevelt Room # 108, or otherwise known as, the Rockett Room. The Rockett Room is dedicated to Assistant Dean Emerita Sarah H. Rockett, who for many years advised students and later oversaw academic advising in University College.

Website: (<http://www.uri.edu/univcol/acadadv/>) Go here to find a list of majors, curriculum sheets, useful forms, contact information and hours for your academic advisor, and much, much more!

AIM: UCAdvChat—Use this AIM screen-name during Quick Question hours to chat with our Peer Advisors

Facebook: Join the *UNDECIDED@URI* facebook group for information and resources for undeclared students at URI.



"According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average college graduate changes jobs once every three years and changes career fields two or three times in their lifetime. So, for those of you who think choosing a college major locks you into a specific career for the rest of your life, think again."
 - The Princeton Review

