

HOW **2** guide:

Career Exploration (For students with declared majors)

There are numerous approaches that career advisors can use to assist students in the career exploration process. This handout will introduce you to two strategies, as well as some additional activities you can do to help identify career options. Before we begin our discussion on career choice, you should know that students differ widely in their readiness to make this decision. While some students may already know which career they want to pursue, many others haven't necessarily settled on one particular career path. So don't feel bad if you haven't figured it all yet.

1) "WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR?"

A highly popular resource is a website called "What Can I Do With This Major?" The site contains a list of the typical career paths associated with many of the majors FGCU offers, as well as the type of employers that hire these majors and strategies for breaking into the field. To access this site, go to <http://enrollment.fgcu.edu/advising/majorexploration.htm>. Please note that the information on the site is representative of *typical* career paths associated with each major and not a comprehensive list. Also, *not all FGCU majors are included on this list*. It may also be helpful to know that some students go into careers that may not be typically associated with their degree. Ultimately, the goal is for you is to pursue a career that you think you will enjoy and be good at, even if it is something not directly related to your degree.

If you are open to exploring all possible career paths that may be a good fit for you, irrespective of your major, we suggest that you consider using MyPlan.com...

2) MYPLAN.COM

MyPlan.com is a free web-based career planning resource that allows you to take assessments of your skills, interests, personality, and work values, and then see how those patterns of characteristics match with hundreds of different occupations.

Important: Students must enter the License Code during the MyPlan.com registration process in order to access the assessments for free. For a full description of how to use MyPlan.com, and to access the License Code, go to our department homepage (listed at top of page) and select "MyPlan.com" from the left navigation bar. This resource is available ONLY to FGCU students and alumni

OTHER CAREER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- We encourage you to conduct "**Informational Interviews.**" These are meetings with professionals in an occupation or field you are interested in to help gain insight as to whether this career may be a good fit for you. This activity will also help ensure your perceptions and expectations of that occupation are accurate. For more information on how to conduct an information interview, go to our homepage, select "Students and Alumni" then "Career Center Handouts."
- Set aside time to **reflect** on the activities and experiences you have enjoyed while attending FGCU. For example, you may have really enjoyed planning a large event for your student club/organization. Perhaps you want to consider your skill and interest in event planning when exploring careers.
- As you can see, career exploration is a "process." Hopefully you have been able to narrow down your options to a handful of careers. Once you have assessed each option in terms of how well it meets your needs and what additional education and training you may need to enter the field, it is time to **make your decision.**

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

If you have narrowed down your options and want to discuss them further with a Career Services advisor, or want to discuss your job search strategy or graduate school, make an appointment by contacting **Career Development Services** – contact information at top of page.

If you have completed all the activities listed above and are unable to generate options, feel confused, or find it difficult to make a decision, we encourage you to meet with a career counselor from **Counseling and Psychological Services** to help you through the decision-making process. Appointments can be made by contacting them at caps@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-7950.

HOW **2** guide:

Using MyPlan.com

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Step 1 – Registration

1. Go to www.myplan.com
2. Click on “Account” tab on top right.
3. Click “Create Free Account”
4. Fill out Account Information.
5. Read and agree to the “Terms of Use” and “Privacy Policy”
6. Click “Continue”
7. Where it asks for License Code, enter “54DNUVKZ” *
8. To make results viewable to Reid Lennertz, the FGCU site administrator, click “Share results with license provider.”
9. Click “Submit Registration”

You must register and enter License Code to take free assessments.

*** After June 1st, 2012, contact FGCU Career Center for the new Code**



Step 2 – Assessments

Click on the “Assessment” tab at the top of the page. Each assessment varies in length, but most can be completed within 15 minutes. Each one must be completed once you start it and incomplete tests cannot be saved. Each question must be answered in order – do not skip questions. Once you have completed an assessment it will appear in the “My Reports” folder under “My Portfolio” for you to review. **Be sure to take all four assessments!**

Step 3 – Compare your pattern of personal characteristics to the world of work

In the “My Portfolio” page, you should see your four reports, followed by “Composite Score.” Click “Composite Score” to see the list of corresponding occupations.

1. Where it states “What Level of Education?” select “Level 4: Four Year Degree (College)” and click “Go!” A list of possible occupations will be generated. Near the bottom of the page, next to “Display” select “All.”
2. Review the list. Click on the hyperlinked title of any occupation that seems interesting. This will bring you to a detailed multi-page profile that includes: job descriptions, job requirements, salary and employment data, and related majors or degrees to enter that field.
3. Now, under “What Level of Education?” select “Level 5: Graduate Degree or Higher.” (Near the bottom of the page, next to “Display” select “All.”) Even if your current plan doesn’t involve going to graduate school, it may in the future, so let’s include those occupations for exploratory purposes. Review the list.
4. The goal is for you to identify 4-5 occupations of interest for you to further investigate and assess.

Please keep in mind that MyPlan.com is not intended to tell you what you “should do” as a career. It is a starting point to help you generate options. Ultimately, it is YOUR decision to determine the best career path to pursue.

Step 4 – Supplemental Information

If you have already declared a major and are using MyPla.com for career exploration, review the “Career Exploration” handout on the other side of this document.