

HOW **2** guide: *Choosing a Major/Career*

Before we begin our discussion on major/career choice, you should know that people differ widely in their readiness to make this decision. Some people know at a very early age they want to be, for example, a doctor, teacher, or engineer. There are perhaps just as many people, some in their thirties and older, still trying to find their “calling.” So don’t feel bad if you haven’t figured it all yet. People also differ in the strategy they use to choose their major and career. For example:

- Some students aspire to a specific career, such as accountant, marine scientist, or social worker. There are certain degrees that are designed to prepare students for those fields. So, in a sense, the student begins with the end in mind – they select the degree based on their career aspiration.
- Some students may be considering a career that doesn’t have a specific degree prerequisite, such as pharmaceutical sales. They may want to consider majors that develop the skills necessary for that kind of career, such as marketing, management, communications, or even chemistry.
- Some students may be attracted to a certain body of knowledge, such as psychology, sociology, or math, but don’t have a specific career in mind. They just enjoy and have an interest in the field. This is also an acceptable approach, although students at some point will have to start considering how they will apply their degree.

This guide is intended to provide with some ideas and resources to help you through the process of choosing the major/career that is the best fit for you.

MyPlan.com is a web-based career planning resource available only to FGCU student and alumni. The site gives you free access to four assessments - personality, skills, interests, and work values – that can help you better understand your personal characteristics. Then you can run a “CareerMatch” to see the list of occupations that correspond to the assessment results. To access, go to <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/Careers/majors.html>

First Year Advisors can help you transition and navigate the university experience. They can help you clarify your interests, skills, and values in the context of class selection, major choice, and curriculum planning. If you have already declared a major, the Academic Advisors in your college are good sources for information in comparing your career goals with the academic programs.

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.

Attend our **events**. Each fall, Career Services and First Year Advising hosts a **Majors Fair**. Advisors and faculty from the Colleges academic programs participate in this event to share information and answer questions about their academic programs. We also host a guest speaker series called “**Life as....**” We bring in professionals from different fields - wedding planners, PR executives, resort managers, and authors - to talk about what their job is *really* like. Visit the Events Calendar on the Career Development Services website (listed at top of page.)

Participate in an “**Informational Interview**.” These are meeting with professionals in a field in which you are interested in. Contact the Career Center for help in setting one up.

“**What Can I Do With This Major** “ is a web-based resource you can use to explore career options based on your degree. To access, go to <http://enrollment.fgcu.edu/advising/majorexplre.htm>.