

EXPLORING & CHOOSING MAJORS & CAREERS



Career Planning
& Resource Center

HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF YOURSELF

- Discover and clarify who you are and where you want to be. **Ask yourself the following questions:**
 - What do I like to do?
 - What are my strengths?
 - What is important to me?
 - What do I want out of a job or career?
- Complete **MyPlan** (online career assessment) at uwm.myplan.com to clarify your preferences and match your interests, values, skills, and personality to majors and careers.
- Talk with a **career advisor** at the UWM Career Planning & Resource Center to get help in developing a clear understanding of yourself and how that fits with majors and careers.

RESEARCH THE POSSIBILITIES

- Explore careers and UWM majors, minors, and certificate programs that appear to be a good fit with your interests, values, skills, and personality.
- Read websites with **career descriptions**, real people career profiles, and “**What to do with a Major in...**” information.
- Watch **career videos**. Google a career title with the words “career video”, “day in the life of”, or “job video”.
- **Talk with people about their jobs** by conducting informational interviews and job shadowing.
- **Look at job postings** to learn about job responsibilities; required skills and education; salaries; and environments in which you may work.
- Participate in **career related volunteer positions, internships and/or part-time jobs**.

EVALUATE OPTIONS, MAKE CHOICES, AND DEVELOP A PLAN

- After thorough research, you can then narrow the options and **make decisions** on majors and careers to pursue.
- Consider one or two **alternate choices**, in case for any reason plans change and you can't pursue your first choice. Be aware of prerequisite course work and **academic department entry requirements**.
- Meet with your **academic advisor** about your decision to develop an academic plan for each semester.
- Talk with a **career advisor** at the Career Planning & Resource Center about your decision and to learn how to develop the essential career skills and gain experiences that employers expect you to have in your chosen field prior to graduation.
- **Develop an action plan** to help you achieve your academic and career goals.
 - Your goals may include:**
 - Obtaining a certain GPA each semester
 - Joining a student organization in your major or career area
 - Participating in undergraduate research
 - Studying abroad
 - Getting experience through a part-time job, internship and/or volunteer position
 - Networking with professionals or UWM alumni
- Continue to **connect with resources** on campus to help you attain and redefine your goals. These may include certain departments and people.
- **Develop a quality resume** to use when applying for career related experiences, scholarships, study abroad, etc.

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