

Exploratory Resources

Are you still unsure of what major you want? Are you trying to decide between a few majors? Do you not know where to begin? These resources will help to inform you of your own personal strengths, tastes, and interests in addition to providing information about the different programs offered at WKU and possible careers you can connect with.

Explore!

Ask yourself these questions as you begin the process of choosing a major:

- What kind of work environment do you think you would enjoy the most?
- What do you like and dislike?
- What are your values?
- What interests you and what does not?
- What do you do well?
- How do you typically learn best?
- What are your hobbies, and could you turn one into a career?

If you are unable to answer these questions right away, fear not! The following online quizzes may be able to help you figure out some answers.

The **Jung Typology Test** (<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/Types2.asp>) is an online questionnaire about your personality. After completing the questionnaire, you will obtain your personality type formula according to the Carl Jung and Isabel Myers-Briggs typology along with the strengths of your preferences. In addition to a description of your personality type, the website also provides a list of careers or majors that are well suited to your personality.

The **Focus** inventory is a program made available through the Career Services Center. You can find out more about it and how to utilize it by going to the Career Services Focus Page (<http://www.wku.edu/career/services/focus.php>). The Focus is a self-paced, career guidance tool that can assist you in making some important decisions like choosing an academic major or career path. By completing a series of online assessments you can increase your awareness of your skills, interests, values, personality and preferences for leisure activities. With this information, each person is better prepared to explore careers of interest, set career goals, choose courses that will help to develop necessary skills, and develop action plans. The Focus system can help with all of this and more.

MyMajors is another online resource for exploring different majors. MyMajors offers a quiz to assist students in their exploration process (<http://www.mymajors.com/>).

The **Career Decision Difficulties Questionnaire** can assist you in making better career decisions (<http://kivunim.huji.ac.il/eng-quest/cddq.html>). The purpose of this short questionnaire (5-8 minutes) is to identify the difficulties that you might experience while choosing a career or a college major. After filling out the questionnaire you will receive personalized feedback about the causes of your difficulties in choosing a career or a major and recommendations to overcome them.

Act!

Make an appointment with an advisor or faculty member of a program that interests you. Ask questions about the classes that are required and what kind of careers graduates from that major have found. You can also run a What-If? iCAP on TopNet give you an idea of what classes you could take and how many more hours you would need to complete the degree.

Exploratory Resources, continued

Job shadowing is a great way to find out if a career path is meant for you. Spend an afternoon interviewing a professional working in a career that interests you and observing the work environment. Take notes about what you like and don't like. If you are looking for something a little more extensive than job shadowing, try looking for a part-time job or an internship. WKU provides a variety of part-time, on campus jobs. Visit www.wku.edu/studentemployment for more information.

Volunteering can also help you figure out a major or career. It will also help you to build connections to the community, meet new people, and add experience to your resume. To find volunteer opportunities in the Bowling Green area, contact the ALIVE Center or visit www.wku.edu/alive for more information.

Join a student organization related to your interests. This will allow you to connect with other students who are passionate about the same things. Maybe you can even find a way to turn your passion into a major or career. You can find a complete list of registered student organizations through the Student Activities and Organizations website, www.wku.edu/sao.

Connect!

Attend the Majors and Minors Fair to gain more knowledge about the departments at WKU and the major/minor options they offer. Remember, the 2013 Majors and Minors Fair will occur on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Preston Center.

You may be asking yourself, what can I do with this major? While a particular major may sound enticing, it is not always clear what job opportunities may follow that major. This website is a useful tool to connecting career options and majors (<http://www.wku.edu/career/wcidwtmajor.php>).

The Career Services Center is also a great place to utilize and explore your career options. The mission of the Career Services Center is to assist students and alumni in identifying and reaching their career and employment goals, to help employers access an educated and highly trained workforce, and to support faculty and staff in providing opportunities to increase student learning and skill development. Career Services is located in Downing Student Union A230, below the AARC.

The Exploratory News is full of great information for exploring your major options. This newsletter will be emailed to you every month, and is also available through the WKU Exploratory website.

All major and minor programs at WKU are housed within one of six academic colleges: Potter College of Arts and Letters, Gordon Ford College of Business, the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Ogden College of Science and Engineering, the College of Health and Human Services, and University College. Students have the option to be Exploratory within a college. For example, if you're interested in a major within Potter College of Arts and Letters but you're not sure which major suits you best, you can declare your major as "Exploratory – with interest in Arts/Humanities." Declaring Exploratory in a college will allow you to meet with an advisor from that college. The advisor from the college will assist you in narrowing down your program of study.

Finally, how can you choose a major when you don't even know what all the options are? Included here is a complete list of all bachelor's and associate's degree programs, pre-professional concentrations, minors, and certificates that are available at WKU. Be sure to ask your advisor if you would like more information about any program.