

CAREER DECISION-MAKING

Step 2: Research Your Career Options

A little knowledge that acts, is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle.

Kahlil Gibran

Early in your career exploration, research potential majors, careers and employers to help narrow some of your choices. With several broad fields in mind, you can identify and explore specific careers and occupations. We recommend that you return to this resource later in your job search process to research specific organizations in preparation for interviews.

GENERAL RESOURCES TO USE IN RESEARCHING OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

O*Net

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

This database includes information on skills, abilities, knowledge, work activities, and interests associated with occupations. Information is available for more than 950 occupations.

The Occupational Outlook Handbook

<http://www.bls.gov/oco>

The Handbook provides job descriptions, work conditions, the training and education needed, earnings, and expected job prospects for a wide variety of occupations.

What Can I Do With a Major In...

<http://careerservices.evansville.edu>

You know that majors and careers are NOT correlated, but you are having difficulty thinking of what you could do with your degree in (fill in the blank)? This resource provides you with a list potential career paths and employers as well as strategies for how you can begin to prepare yourself for each career.

Great Jobs For...Majors Series

Career Services Resource Room

This series of books provides multiple career paths for the different majors offered at UE.

Career Services Resource Room & Mobile Career Services Office

Both libraries include a wide variety of books that are helpful sources of occupational information; you can search for books by your interest area or major.

UE Library

Career-related resources can be located in the University library in the reference area.

Faculty, Alumni and Other Professionals

They are all tremendous resources for career information. Consider conducting an informational interview with a current professional (ask career services for more information).

The Next Step: A Guide to Career Development

Career Services and Cooperative Education has published a guide to help you maximize your personal potential. The publication is designed for students who are ready to make the next step toward finding full-time professional employment, graduate school, internships, cooperative education, research opportunities, summer work or part-time jobs. This resource will provide you with information and recommended websites for a variety of career-related issues.

The Internet

<http://careerservices.evansville.edu>

Career service's website provides you with suggested web pages for continued major and career exploration. Practice caution regarding the source of your career information; make sure the source is credible. If you have questions, please ask career services.

Center for Academic Advisement

If you are undeclared or would like to change majors, you should contact the Center for Academic Advisement for support and assistance in major exploration and decision-making.

INVESTIGATING A CAREER

Career Research Resources

Make several copies of this worksheet. Use it as a guide for summarizing information about each career you investigate.	
1. What are the job responsibilities? How would I spend a typical day at work?	
2. What are the training requirements for the field? What major is most appropriate? What degree? How long will it take to get ready to enter the field?	
3. What does the job market look like for this field? What can I expect in the future?	
4. In terms of salary and benefits, what can I reasonably expect?	
5. What are the nonmonetary rewards?	
6. What are the opportunities for advancement in this field? What is a typical career path?	
7. What type of people would I be working with? Will I work in a team or independently?	
8. What are the liabilities and limitations of this career? Would I work long hours, under poor working conditions, in a stressful environment, or some other less-than-ideal conditions?	