



Suggestions for the “Undecided” Student

It is completely normal to enter college and not be 100% sure of major or career choices. It’s a great time to start exploring! According to research about 80% of students change their major at least once during their college career. Those who change their major at least once are also more likely to graduate college.

Below are some tips on finding the major that is the best fit for you. Review resources based on which category best describes you:

I am completely undecided of my major or career choice:

- **Reach out to the Career Services office to schedule an appointment with our staff.** Our Career Service’s staff are trained professionals that can help you to explore and develop educational and career goals. Whether you are just starting out at college and are completely undecided and still exploring, or are getting ready to graduate and are unsure of what is next; we can help you wherever you are at in the career development process.
 - Email: careerservices@hacc.edu
 - Phone: 717-780-2433
- **Complete a career assessment.** We recognize there are many factors that influence our career choices. Just a few to consider: *Personality*: Who are you? What are your personality traits? *Skills*: What are you good at? What classes do you do well in? *Values*: What is important to you? *Interests*: What subjects do you enjoy? What do you enjoy doing in your free time? You may not be able to answer all these questions yet, and some of these may change over time. No wonder choosing a major can be so difficult! Completing one of the many assessments we have available may help to guide you in exploring careers and deciding your college major. You can then discuss your assessment results with a career services team member in a career counseling appointment. Check out the assessments on our Career Resources webpage here under the “self-exploration” section: <https://www.hacc.edu/Students/CareerServices/career-resources.cfm>

I am undecided but have some ideas in mind; I would like to learn more about specific majors or careers:

- Visit the Career Services webpage resources under the “career discovery” section and review the array of career-related literature and information: <https://www.hacc.edu/Students/CareerServices/career-resources.cfm> Use these resources to help you research career fields and learn more.
- **Attend one of the many career related workshops/events offered by Career Services each semester.** You can always find a complete list here: <https://www.hacc.edu/Students/CareerServices/CareerEvents/index.cfm> and schedule yourself for the event through the Navigate scheduling tool.

Other career exploration suggestions, in addition to the above:

- **Enroll in the 3-credit course FS 101 - “Career Development and Decision Making”.** Consider spending a semester investing in yourself and your career by enrolling in the FS 101 class. In this course you will spend the semester exploring and learning about yourself, and the career decision making process. You will explore and develop your own education and career goals. This course will also fulfill your FYS program requirement.
- **Plan to take an introductory course in your area of interest.** This will allow you to learn more about the subject, as well as connect you with faculty who are “experts” in their field. Don’t be afraid to ask them questions.
- **Network and utilize your supports.** Consider talking to professionals in fields that interest you. Perhaps you already have friends or family members in your chosen career field? Or, do you *know somebody who knows somebody*? Ask why they chose their career field and what they like and dislike about their field. Seek advice on how to get started. This discussion is called an “Informational Interview.” Perhaps you will even have the opportunity to conduct a Job Shadowing too. Check out our additional information on Informational Interviews and Job Shadowing here: <https://libguides.hacc.edu/careerguide/internships>
- **Contact a Mentor.** Did you know that HACC’s Career Services has many professionals willing to serve as a mentor to our students? Consider reaching out and searching for a Mentor in College Central Network (CCN), HACC’s Career Services Platform Mentor Network: <https://www.collegecentral.com/hacc/>
- **Consider giving it a “test drive”.** Securing an Internship, volunteering, or obtaining a part-time job are all fantastic ways to gain experience and learn about careers. By interning, volunteering, or working an entry-level job in your field, you will gain valuable experience and discover if it is the right career for you. There are many other benefits, as well. Not only do these experiences look great on your resume, you may even be able to earn you will build a network of professionals in the field and it may even lead to future employment. Check out additional information on Internships here: <https://libguides.hacc.edu/careerguide/internships>
- Be proactive in your search for a major and career path and don’t become discouraged! Maybe you thought you had an idea but changed your mind. That is okay. Learning what you do not like is just as valuable as what you do like. Career development is a life-long process and these decisions do not happen overnight. Throughout life you will grow and change, situations change and your career decision may change, as well. You do not need to have it all figured out just yet...finding a major that suits all of your interests is a great start! Please remember that the Career Services team is here to help you with your career development and can assist with each of these steps outlined above. Take advantage of the services and resources we have available. It is never too early to begin planning and working towards your career goals.

Contact HACC’s Career Services for more information or to assist you with your career goals!

717.780.2433 / careerservices@hacc.edu / <https://www.hacc.edu/Students/CareerServices/index.cfm>

Let us help you start to Explore, Discover, and Connect!!!