Choosing a Major/Career Decision Making

Step 1: Assess Yourself
Unsure of what you want to do? Confused about your major? Complete FOCUS-2, which you can access online http://www.temple.edu/provost/deanofstudents/careercenter/vcc.htm and evaluate your personal qualities and explore career and study options that are most compatible with your personality, interests and skills. If you need more assistance just ask us for details!

Step 2: Gather Information and Explore Options
Consider both your career path and what you want to study since you can pursue multiple career paths with any given major. Examine the majors available to you at Temple University, and research careers of interest.
- See www.temple.edu/bulletin for a list of all Temple University majors (click “Academic Programs”). Make a list of your options and eliminate those that don’t interest you.
- Read about the majors remaining on your list. Mark the courses in each major that most interest you, match your abilities, and share your values. This should help you further shorten your list.
- Review additional information about the majors on your short list. Visit each department’s web pages, or read print materials they offer. Talk with an academic advisor, students currently in these majors, and faculty members.
- Visit the Career Path Sheets online: http://www.temple.edu/provost/deanofstudents/careercenter/students/majorinfo.html Doing so will help you match majors with career possibilities and learn details about specific occupations.

Step 3: Reality Check
You need to honestly evaluate your options. Do you have an interest in being a doctor, but dislike (or do poorly in) science courses? Do you have a strong interest in the arts, but your family is convinced you will become a CPA like your father? There are often ways to get around some of the obstacles during the reality check, but it is still important to face these obstacles and be realistic. Talk to a faculty advisor in your program of interest. He/she will be able to answer specific questions about the courses in that major.

Step 4: Evaluate and Make Your Decision
Weigh the pros and cons of each option. Consider the feasibility of a second choice or making one of your options your minor. Remember, you can also major in one subject and supplement your academic experience with an internship. With a few exceptions, there isn’t just one way to any given job.

If you are still having difficulty deciding, talk with a career coach who can help you evaluate the information you have collected, suggest additional resources, and guide you through the decision-making process.

Step 5: Take Action
- Sample courses in the majors you are considering.
- Understand how to change your major at Temple University. Students declare a major either by completing their school's or college's declaration of major process (see specific school or college section of the Undergraduate Bulletin) or by completing an intra-university transfer to another Temple school or college (see Transfer Between Colleges Within the University in the Undergraduate Bulletin).
- Choose student activities, volunteer work, and/or part-time employment that can help you further develop your skills in areas that interest you.
- Get an internship, and begin building your professional portfolio.
Further Exploration

Look into possible career options according to specific majors or areas of interest by doing the following:

• Look on our website: [www.temple.edu/careercenter](http://www.temple.edu/careercenter): Click on “Students,” then click on “What Can You Do With Your Major”. These guides are also available in the Center.

• While you’re on our website, click on the Virtual Career Center link and search the Career Insider. This will give you valuable information about jobs, companies, and industries.

• From our website, click on “OwlNetwork”. To Login, please enter your username (your TU ID) for example, tu912456789; and the password (wiseowl).

Researching Careers

Once you’ve found a few occupations that look interesting, you can research them by doing the following:

• Talk to people who do it (Informational Interviews) – This is where you will find your best info and, networking contacts too!

• Talk to alumni. Join [www.myowlspace.com](http://www.myowlspace.com) the online community for Temple University Alumni.

• Try it out – volunteer or get a part-time job or internship.

• Check out professional organization web sites or join a local chapter.

• Check out these internet resources:
  
  Career One Stop [www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org)


  O*Net [http://online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

  Dictionary of Occupational Titles [www.occupationalinfo.org](http://www.occupationalinfo.org)

• For salary information, try [www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com).

Matching Careers: How Does the Career Fit You?

• Personal skills/abilities needed and how they match up with your skills/abilities

• Nature of the work or main job functions (typical day on the job)

• Education, training, and experience needed

• Work environment (indoor/outdoor, travel, hours, etc.)

• Average salary/benefits for this occupation

• Non-monetary awards

• Employment outlook for the future

• Opportunities for career mobility

• Aspects you like about the occupation

• Aspects you dislike about the occupation

• Why you do or do not feel as though this occupation is a good fit for you