



Career Connection

The Ohio State University
Younkin Success Center
1640 Neil Avenue, 2nd Floor
(614) 688-3898
www.careerconnection.osu.edu

Career Exploration and Occupational Information on the Web

The purpose of this exercise is to assist you in your major and career exploration process by gathering some personal and career-related information using the Internet. This exercise will assist you to,

1. Learn more about how your interests relate to majors and careers.
2. Relate occupational options with major choices.
3. Learn more about other career related resources in the Internet.

You may use additional Internet resources to obtain information.

NOTE: In order to choose which OSU majors represent your best fit, you will need to continue the exploration process beyond this web activity. Plan on meeting with an academic advisor to determine course and classes.

Part I: Relating Your Interests to Careers and Majors

The following web sites are very useful to gather information about your personal characteristics. Self-exploration of your interests, skills, values and personality are a critical step in making realistic and satisfying decisions.

Step 1. Access The Career Connection web site (<http://www.careerconnection.osu.edu>). This is the main web page that you will be using for this exercise.

Step 2. Click on “Undergraduate Students” (main menu that you will be using for this web exercise)

Step 3. Click on “ASSESSING YOUR CAREER INTERESTS”

Step 4. Visit

- The Career Interest Game web (<http://career.missouri.edu/students/explore/thecareerinterestsgame.php>). Based on the Holland RIASEC model, it lists occupations corresponding to each of the six categories and includes brief occupational descriptions. Click on the name of each Holland theme relevant to your interests.
- Career Zone (<http://www.nycareerzone.org/>). Lists several occupations, based on the Holland RIASEC model. Click *assess yourself*. It will give you detailed information about job descriptions, personal knowledge, levels of education and school programs, as well as wages, job outlook, and similar jobs.
 - a. Record your three letter summary code (RIASEC model). ____ _
 - b. For each Holland code, there are other five codes that should be explored. For example, if your code is EAS, you should also consider occupations and majors coded as ESA, ASE, AES, SEA, and SAE. List the other five codes you need to consider:
 1. ____ _
 2. ____ _
 3. ____ _
 4. ____ _
 5. ____ _

- How does this information about YOURSELF support or contrast with your past or current ideas about academic majors and careers?
- c. Use the OSU major by Holland Code (RIASEC) sheets to see which programs of study match your code combinations. Download them from the Career Connection web site. They are under “undergraduate” in “EXPLORATION OF OSU MAJORS”. As you read the list of academic programs, you’ll notice that some will seem more appealing than others. For instance, you may consider a program to be appealing if it requires one of your aptitudes (e.g. math, science, persuasive skills, writing etc) and it relates to an occupation you’re interested in, or generally seems like something you would enjoy studying.
- d. List 3 of the OSU majors that are unfamiliar to you and that merit further investigation.
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Step 5: Click on “EXPLORING OSU MAJORS” (located in “Undergraduates Students” in the Career Connection web site)

- Visit, OSU Undergraduate Majors by Colleges and Schools at <http://www.osu.edu/academics/a-z.php> or <http://www-afa.adm.ohio-state.edu/undergrad/academics/majors.asp>
These websites provide information about undergraduate OSU majors, by colleges, describing the admission process, career opportunities, course requirements, and further contact information.

It is imperative that you collect information about each of the majors you regard as possibilities and consider the following questions:

- What would I enjoy about the course work required for these majors?
- What would I find difficult about the course work required for these majors?
- Do I enjoy the skills that these majors required?
- Is it possible to combine my interests in multiple disciplines (e.g. minors, double majors, and future graduate school)?
- What occupations correspond to these majors?
- Would I enjoy these occupations?
- Am I considering any of these majors just to please others?
- What criteria do you need to meet in order to be accepted into your major?
- What is the academic background required by your major?

Part II: Relating Careers to Majors: What can I do with a Major in?

Step 1: Click on “EXPLORING CAREER/OCCUPATIONS (Located in “Undergraduate Students” in the Career Connection web site)

You can explore occupations by majors or by getting information about a specific occupation you may have in mind. You may use both methods to do your research. Select one occupation you want to research further.

- a. Click on “Exploring Occupations by Majors”, visit:
- [Austin Peay State University](http://www.apsu.edu/careers/majors/index.htm) (<http://www.apsu.edu/careers/majors/index.htm>) Gives extensive listings of majors with links to common career areas, typical employers, and strategies designed to maximize career opportunities upon completion of a four-year degree. Courtesy of Austin Peay State University.
 - [Exploring Occupations](http://www.umanitoba.ca/counselling/careers.html) (<http://www.umanitoba.ca/counselling/careers.html>)

University of Manitoba. Features information on a wide variety of career fields.
Provides useful career links by majors.

- [NIU major Web Links](http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/weblinks/index.html) (<http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/weblinks/index.html>) provides a list of sample jobs and employers as well as occupational and job search links for different majors.
- [What Can I Do With a Major in?](http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/) (<http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/>) Excellent site for exploring how one's major relates to various occupational titles. Features a list of "further exploration" web sites for each major.
- [Career Planit](http://www.careerplanit.com/resource/profile.asp) (<http://www.careerplanit.com/resource/profile.asp>) Search by you major for a list of jobs, or pick a job and see which majors might fit that career. These lists aren't exhaustive but might open your eyes about what you can do with your degree.

b. Click on "Getting Information About Occupations", visit:

- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](http://www.bls.gov/oco/) (<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>). This site describes what workers do on the job, the working conditions, the training and education needed, earnings, and expected job prospects in a wide range of occupations. It is an on-line version of a standard resource found in career services centers. Many of the sites listed above link to this site for their descriptions of occupations.
- [America's Career InfoNet](http://www.acinet.org/acinet) (<http://www.acinet.org/acinet>). Comprehensive source of labor market information. To learn about career field select Career Resource Library, and then explore by occupation.
- [O*Net](http://online.onetcenter.org/) (<http://online.onetcenter.org/>) Search for occupations based on your skills or simply explore different occupations based on different features
- [Ohio Job and Family Services](http://lmi.state.oh.us/index.htm) (<http://lmi.state.oh.us/index.htm>) Provides information about the job market in the State of Ohio. It is your source for reports and data about employment levels, unemployment rates, wages and earnings, employment projections, jobs, training resources and careers.

Consider the following questions:

- What do workers typically do (job responsibilities and tasks performed)
- Do workers in this occupation work with things, data, people, or ideas or some combination?
- How much variety is there in a typical day?
- How closely supervised are workers in this occupation?
- In what type of environment do employees work? (I.e. office, outdoors, hospitals, etc)
- What are the work hours (typical 8-5 p.m. Monday-Friday., evenings, weekends)
- Is there travel involved?
- What type of academic preparation and/or training is required for this occupation? Are there licensure or certification requirements?
- What are the skills required to perform this job well?
- What is the employment outlook for this job?
- What is the average salary?
- Based on what you have learned would you consider pursuing this occupation?

Part III Exploring Other Career Related Links

[Exploration of Graduate and Professional Schools](http://careerconnection.osu.edu/undergraduate_grad.asp), (http://careerconnection.osu.edu/undergraduate_grad.asp) if you are in the process of applying to a graduate and professional school.

[Internships Opportunities](http://careerconnection.osu.edu/undergraduate_intern.asp) (http://careerconnection.osu.edu/undergraduate_intern.asp) if you want to try out a career idea to learn if it fits with what you know about yourself and your major. Different links to specific internships in a variety of majors are listed, but you may want to consult your career services office for more information. Links to internships for diverse populations and students who are interested in an international experience are also listed.

[Resumes, Cover Letters and Interviews](http://careerconnection.osu.edu/undergraduate_resume.asp) (http://careerconnection.osu.edu/undergraduate_resume.asp) if you are in the process of conducting a job search to achieve your career goals. Different links to general job search advice, resume writing, covers letters, interviewing skills, networking, and information on salary range for various occupations are presented.

[Job Opportunities](http://careerconnection.osu.edu/undergraduate_search.asp) http://careerconnection.osu.edu/undergraduate_search.asp if you are researching for job opportunities and/or employer profiles. This web site lists resources for both undergraduate and graduate students who may be searching for job in and outside of academia.

[Resources for Diverse Populations and International Resources](http://careerconnection.osu.edu/international.asp) (<http://careerconnection.osu.edu/international.asp>), if you are interested in exploring career links as they pertain to diversity and international issues.

[Career Services and Employment at OSU](http://careerconnection.osu.edu/default_cse.asp), (http://careerconnection.osu.edu/default_cse.asp) if you want to find more about career resources at The Ohio State University, including the regional campuses. This web site lists the career services offices offered by your college, the major career events that take place in The Ohio State University during the academic year, and The Ohio State University official job web site.