

- **Highlight Arts/ Music/ Theatre career areas**
- **What can I do with a major in?**
- **Average salaries, job demand and skills required**

INSIDE:

Assessment

Test Your Theory

Steps to Making a Decision

Top Jobs for People Who....

Send any specific career questions or requests for topics to:

hays@morningside.edu

Career Chronicles

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What do you want to be when you grow up?

Do you know the answer? Fortunately, you don't need to know the WHOLE answer to make career decisions at the collegiate level, such as what major to choose or what classes to take.

There is a difference between a major and a career path. Typically, your major is preparation for your career, giving you the knowledge, skills and abilities you need to succeed in that career path.

Some occupations don't require a certain major; for example, many management positions require only a Bachelor's Degree to qualify. Getting a Liberal Arts degree allows you to receive a well rounded education, ensuring your success in various areas. Be forewarned, however, that some careers do require certain majors; for example, to go to medical school, you can technically get your Bachelor's degree in any discipline, however, if you haven't taken enough science courses, you may not be well prepared to succeed in medical school. That's why it's important to think about life after college while you are still in college! When choosing

a major or career path, try to answer the following questions:

- *What things interest me?
- *What subjects do I enjoy and do well at?
- *What is my ideal job?
- *What are the values that are going to be important to me?
- *Do I want to live a certain type of lifestyle?

Are you interested in law, but also always wanted to be a part of the entertainment scene? Maybe a career in Entertainment Law would suit you?

*Do I have barriers to do the kinds of things I think I would like to do? Can I overcome those barriers?

When answering these questions to yourself, you may begin to see patterns of career areas that would work

well for you. At this point, you should be less concerned with the specifics of the occupation, and more concerned with the general subject area. As you begin to take classes in your interest area, you will quickly find out if the major is a good match for you, or if you need to keep searching.

If you are having a hard time determining answers to the previous questions, be sure to stop in Career Services.

Another tactic in choosing a career or major is research. By researching an occupation, you allow yourself to learn various parts of the career area and see if those parts will fit with you and your lifestyle. For example, you may be very interested in becoming an architect, but you don't have the math proficiency that is needed. Research allows you to look into related careers that may not require as much math; ie: Commercial & Industrial Designer.

(Continued inside)

Assessment - Free Your Mind

Career Services offers three basic types of assessment: Discover, Choices and Myers-Briggs.

Assessment is important because it allows an 'unbiased' party to 'rate' your interests, abilities and values and find links to occupations. Assessment can also help you identify new occupational areas you had not previously considered. Finally, assessment is helpful because it offers information about the occupational areas that are targeted, so you can learn more about the occupation all in one place.

Discover and Choices are both on-line assessment tools that offer three different inventories: interests, skills/

abilities and work values. The interest portion of the inventory will ask you varied questions about what you would and would not like to do at work. The skills/abilities assessment has you gauge your skills and abilities in several different areas. The work values assessment has you rank certain values as related to work; for example, Do you need to be busy all the time at work?, Would you rather work inside or outside? How important is salary to you?

After the inventories have been taken, the computer will direct you to occupational areas and specific jobs that match all or portions of the results of your various assessments.

Myers-Briggs is a personality test that determines your "type". The four letter types are described as: Introverted vs. Extroverted, Sensing vs. Intuition, Thinking vs. Feeling and Judging vs. Perceiving. Once you have your four letter type, you can look up occupations that typically fall within that type. This assessment relies on the theory that how you prefer to behave will impact your satisfaction and success in certain career fields.

To schedule an assessment or to get assistance in analyzing an assessment, contact Stacie (x5254) in Career Services.

"Analyzing what you haven't got, as well as what you have, is a necessary ingredient of a career."

Orison Swett Marden

What Do I Want To Be Cont.

You can research most occupations at two websites: America's Career Infonet; www.acinet.org or O*Net On-line at www.onetcenteronline.org. The information gathered at these sites are compiled from the US Department of Labor.

An additional way to gather research about careers is informational interviewing. This entails finding professionals in the career area you are interested in, and asking them practical questions about their chosen profession.

Some questions you may want to ask include; What do you like the most about your job? The least? How did you get your position? What is the typical education level for someone in this position. For a full list of informational interviewing questions, visit Career Services.

Informational interviewing allows you to get 'real world' practical information about a career.

Sometimes you know what it is that you want to do, but you don't know how to 'get there'. Career Services can help you identify educational requirements for certain occupations and most common knowledge, skills and abilities needed to succeed.

Finally, you can use assessment as a tool to identify and reaffirm possible career areas that match your interests, abilities and values. Read more about assessment and the steps to making successful career decisions on the inside of the newsletter.



Start thinking about what might happen after college during college!

Test Your Theory

Once you have made a career decision, or tentative career decision, it is time to test it out. There are a couple different ways to test out a career choice. The first is to take a course(s) in that area. When completing a related course, you will get an idea if the content is interesting to you, and will be something you can stick with.

When scheduling classes, try to choose your electives and general education requirements wisely. You can take a class to 'test' a career decision, and if you end up changing your mind, you still are going to want the class to count toward your graduation requirements. Work closely with your advisor or get assistance from Career

Services if you have questions about how to choose classes that will count toward graduation.

The second way to test your



Internships allow you to determine what you will and won't enjoy in a career and give you practical hand-on experience you can use to get a job later.

decision is with a job shadow or internship. The basic difference between the two is that a job shadow is informal and an internship can be taken for

credit. With a job shadow, the student is basically observing the work environment for a short period of time, almost like a volunteer. In an internship, the student is actually working along side a professional, learning techniques of the trade. Internships require specific academic guidelines and can be paid or unpaid. Internships are generally for students at a junior level or higher. You can get more information about finding job shadow and internship experiences by speaking with your advisor or contacting Career Services.

“The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them.”
George Bernard Shaw

Steps to Making a Decision



There are typically four steps involved in making any decision, and career related decisions are no different.

The first step is to assess yourself. We talk extensively about assessment on the previous page. Assessment can help you better understand yourself and determine your wants and needs.

It is one of the single most important steps in making good, solid decisions.

Second, gather information and explore options. Use the library, worldwide web, career journals and other resources to find out as much about possible occupations as you can. In future issues of Career Chronicles, we will break down general occupational areas and talk about career options within those occupational areas.

Third, evaluate and make a decision. Set goals for yourself with deadlines to make a decision. Weigh all of your options, and try to come up with pros and cons for each variable. Try and think in different ways; for example, can you accommodate more than one interest by majoring in one area and having a minor in another?

Finally, it is time to test your decision. We have talked about ways to do that above.

Top Jobs for People Who....

This is a fun (and totally unscientific) list compiled from various sources at:

www.princetonreview.com/cte/articles/plan/tenjobs/asp.

Need to pay off student loans right away:

Investment Banker

Financial Analyst

Management Consultant

Construction Manager

Trader

Service Sales Representative

Court Reporter

Carpenter

Marketing Executive **Can't stand**

dress clothes:

Farmer

Artist

Firefighter

Actor

Writer

Coach

Computer Programmer

Zoologist

Anthropologist

Child Care Worker

Have Type A Personalities:

Attorney

Investment Banker

Astronaut

Management Consultant

Pilot

Military Officer

Architect

Systems Analyst

Accountant/Auditor

Stockbroker

Long for Unpredictable Days:

Small Business Owner

FBI Agent

Police Officer

Restaurant Owner

Firefighter

Musician

Advertising Executive



Morningside College Career Services

Stacie Hays

Career Counselor

1501 Morningside Ave

219 Lewis Hall

Sioux City, IA 51106

Phone: 712-274-5254

E-mail: hays@morningside.edu

Career Services, located in 219 Lewis Hall, offers assistance in the following areas:

***Job Search**

***Resume Development/Critique**

***Interview Skills/Mock Interviews**

***Graduate School Applications**

***Job Listings**

***Career Exploration**

***Career Assessments**

***Labor Market Information**

Call Stacie at x5254, or e-mail at hays@morningside.edu