

IS THIS CAREER/MAJOR A GOOD FIT?

Have you ever had a piece of clothing that was too tight or just didn't fit right? It is extremely uncomfortable and usually leads us to get rid of the garment. The same could be said for careers. Some will fit very well, and others will not. By now many of you have picked a major but that major can lead to many careers. Before you invest over two years of your time and a substantial amount of money, wouldn't you like the opportunity to try on your career and gain firsthand knowledge of what it is like to be in that career?

There are some great ways to do this research without a huge investment of time and effort. The first is through **informational interviewing**.

Step 1: Look for someone who is actually working in the career field you have chosen, perhaps a relative, neighbor or friend of the family. Most people feel flattered and like to talk about what they do.

Step 2: Arrange to spend about 30 minutes with them in their job setting.

Step 3: Arrive on time and dressed professionally.

Step 4: Ask them questions you have prepared in advance that will help you determine how well this career and work environment fit you. This is a great opportunity to ask questions you cannot ask during an interview. Ask about their background and career path. Ask about the best and worst things in the job. Ask about the industry as a whole and what the future job market looks like.

Step 5: After the interview, be sure to get their business card and send a thank you note. Later on, they can provide valuable insight into your career field and connections during your job search.

If you need help making arrangements or knowing what to ask, our career services staff would be happy to help.

Another way to do first hand research is through a **job shadow**. Job shadowing allows you to spend a short amount of time, 3-4 hours, with someone who is doing what you want to do. You will be able to watch them work and see what really happens on the job. You may even be able to participate in some manner depending on the occupation. The process for arranging this is the same as with an informational interview, in fact, it is a great follow up to an informational interview.

The last way to complete your research is through firsthand experience in a **summer job or internship**. Use your summer to explore your career field and gain priceless information for yourself as well as valuable experience you can put on your resume. Come into the Career Services Center and use all the available resources to secure an internship or summer job. Career Services Center is in SCC 126.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT:

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Located in Student Life in SCC



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