MAJOR CHOICE: RESOURCES TO DETERMINE BEST FIT

First, it’s important that you have a good idea about your interests. You can’t find what you’re looking for if you don’t know what you want. Get a blank piece of paper and starting writing down what you’re interested in, take self-assessments, and/or talk with a career counselor.

SELF-ASSESSMENTS

To figure out your interests, values, personality, skills and strengths: visit this SJSU Career Center website: http://www.sjsu.edu/careercenter/students/explore-majors-careers/getting-to-know-yourself/assessment/index.html (or to find on the site, www.sjsu.edu/career center>Students>Explore Majors/Careers>Getting to Know Yourself>Conduct a self-assessment).

Once you have narrowed down your interests, use the resources below to help search for a major.

Online Approach
Quick approach to researching majors/careers.
- Info.sjsu.edu – View the list of SJSU majors, see the courses you’d take, and read descriptions about those courses. Do they look like courses you’d like to take?
- Department Sites – Read information about a major you are curious about on their Academic Department site. For example, interested in Anthropology? Then read over the Anthropology Department site.
- Google / YouTube – Search majors and careers of interest. Spend time watching videos and reading.
- Cacareerzone.org / onetonline.org – Research 100’s of careers and related majors.
- What Can I Do With My Major – Information about careers related to certain majors: www.sjsu.edu/careercenter > Students > What Can I Do With My Major
- Company / Industry Sites – Think of companies/industries you’re interested in working at. What kind of job would you want there? What major would help you get that job?
  o View the job postings on the company’s website.
- Job Sites – Read over job descriptions. Do you see yourself doing something like that?
  o SpartaJobs: www.sjsu.edu/careercenter/students/spartajobs
  o Simply Hired: www.simplyhired.com
  o Indeed: www.indeed.com

Hands-on Approach
Sometimes the biggest influence to our choices is based off the conversations we’ve had with others and our experiences.
- Talk to People (Informational Interviewing) – Find someone who is in the major/career you’re curious about, and ask them questions (What made you choose this major/career? What do you do at your job?).
  o Friends, friends of friends, family, classmates, acquaintances, colleagues, supervisors, alumni, etc.
  o Utilize LinkedIn to search for people to interview (www.linkedin.com; highly recommended).
- Events – From attending events, you can learn new information and meet people who you can talk to.
  o Panels, conferences, talks, presentations, networking events, information sessions, job fairs, etc.
- Get Experience – Some people learn more by actually experiencing it.
  o Volunteer, student club activities, projects, internships, and/or part-time work.

Adapted from SJSU Career Center