What can I do with this major?

I want to do everything!

Here are some great steps to get you started, but remember: Your major is just one of the factors in shaping your future career—your interests, skills, values, and personality all play a vital part. For more help putting the pieces together, make an appointment with the Career Consultant for your college or a Career Advisor at CareerNetwork.msu.edu/advising.

MSU strives to cultivate “T-Shaped” graduates with a depth and breadth of knowledge and experiences that prepare you for rapidly changing workplace requirements. Your time in and out of the classroom helps you to discover your Purpose, gain Confidence in your abilities, and become Aware of and understand the perspective of others.
“What can I do with this major?” is a resource for students wondering how to connect majors to careers. You can find this at the CareerNetwork.msu.edu website in the “Exploring Options” tab under “Choosing a Career and Major.” Click on majors to see common career areas, employers, and strategies designed to maximize career opportunities. There are also links by major to professional organizations, the Occupational Outlook Handbook, and job websites.

Use Career Tools, our personalized resource search, to learn more about career fields, job outlooks, professional organizations, job and internship opportunities, and other experiential opportunities that can help you figure out your career path. CareerNetwork.msu.edu/search

Informational interviews can be another great way to learn about specific career paths by asking questions of professionals in career fields about which you are curious. Look on pages 22-25 for info.

Job shadowing can be an excellent way to explore a career up close and get a real-life experience. Check out pages 22-25 for more information.

Spartan Links is a group on LinkedIn (a professional networking site) that connects MSU students to alumni working in their areas of interest. It serves as an advice hub, where students can explore different industries and connect with people firsthand who are working in those industries. See page 59.

Career fairs aren’t just for seniors! Employers are hiring interns as well as full time. Get out and talk to recruiters hiring for the types of careers you are exploring. Ask them what education, experiences, and skills they seek in successful applicants. Be a career event ambassador! We recruit volunteers to host employers at career events. Pages 64-65 has advice for getting results at a career fair.

Working on- or off-campus, volunteering, or working on a research project are all excellent ways to explore specific career fields while networking with professionals, building your skills, and enhancing your resume. Search at MSU.joinHandshake.com.

Check Handshake for workshops, presentations, panels, and employer events that are related to your areas of interest. And check out the Career Exposure series, designed to help you learn about various career options in lots of popular industries. You’ll find and RSVP for these events in Handshake.

Check with your college Career Consultant who can help connect you with alumni and professionals or help you lay out a plan to explore your interests. Some colleges may have specific resources on what others who graduated in your major are doing now. See pages B-I1 or visit CareerNetwork.msu.edu/advising.

A career assessment can help you discover your strengths and interests and connect them to majors, extracurriculars, and jobs/internships. CareerNetwork.msu.edu/exploring-options.

Talk with faculty about their interests, research, and professional experiences to learn about the field and what you will need to do and learn to succeed.

Explore all the opportunities that www.MSU.edu has to offer!
Steps to explore your career options

1. **find your purpose**

   Start by asking yourself ... and go back to pages 14-15 for more tips!

   - What knowledge is important to my plans for personal and professional development?
   - What skills are my strengths? Are there skills I need to develop? Are there things I'm good at but don't actually enjoy?

2. **career assessments**

   “I heard I can take a career test that will tell me what to do ...” Yeah, you can do that, but they aren’t really tests and they won’t give you the one major or career that will be right for you—but the results will help you examine, understand, and talk about how your interests, personality, values, and skills combine to make you who you are!

   Taking a career assessment will help you structure your ideas and guide you toward careers to explore further. Talking with a Career Advisor about your results can help you see how you can use what you’ve learned to make career decisions. Learn about the types of career assessments we offer at CareerNetwork.msu.edu under the “Exploring Options” tab.

3. **explore outside the box**

   College is about exploration, discovery, and taking some risks. You’ll discover so much more if you experiment along the way. Broaden your horizons by ... Surf by CareerNetwork.msu.edu for a list of career events and to get more details.

   - Taking an elective outside your major that really excites you. Employers and graduate schools value students who act on their passions and interests.
   - Browsing career options at a career fair. Career fairs aren’t just for job seekers, they are for anyone interested in exploring different career options. It’s a great way to learn about different employers and talk to Spartan alumni about their experiences.
   - Education Abroad is a great way to broaden your global perspective and develop intercultural awareness. Browse study abroad options at EducationAbroad.isp.msu.edu.
   - The Alternative Spartan Break Program helps you gain insight into different communities and social challenges while contributing to a greater good. Check out asb.msu.edu.

   Exploring may lead to new questions. Career Advisors can help you find the answers, sort through your options, and plan next steps. Set up an appointment at CareerNetwork.msu.edu/advising.
Liberal arts students: Major ≠ Career

Did you know that 50–75% of all undergraduate degree requirements are the same, regardless of major? The last 25% (about 30 credits) is what determines the name of your major, but most of your academic classes are very similar to other college graduates. As for your major, liberal arts degrees are broad by design. This makes you a versatile graduate with lots of transferable skills to offer employers. Your degree doesn’t automatically predefine what you can do—you can do just about anything you want with the right combination of skills and experience!

Okay, not having a major that equates to a specific career might make figuring out what you want to do a little more challenging. But it also gives you many directions in which to turn initially and provides versatility over the life of your career. Liberal arts grads can be found everywhere: government, nonprofits, corporations and banks, education, and much more. As a liberal arts grad, you’ve got a lot to offer an employer. For many students, one of the best things to do is to focus less on your major and more on your interests.

Like other majors, employers will expect that you have experience when you graduate. This could include volunteer activities, student organization involvement, studies abroad, undergraduate research, part time jobs, and most importantly, internships. These activities allow you to explore what you might be interested in doing and build important skills valuable to employers before you graduate. Use your experiences intentionally to explore your interests, prepare for life after MSU, and connect with potential employers of interest.

Keep reading through the “Explore Your Future” section (pages 14-30), in addition to the section “Prepare to Make Your Move” (pages 50-61). And if you need help, don’t forget that your Career Consultant or Career Advisor can help you develop a custom plan through a career advising appointment (pages 8-11).