Wondering what you should major in? Curious about which kinds of careers you should pursue? You are not alone: 70% of MSU students change their major at least once!

Choosing a major and career can be a stressful process, but it doesn’t have to be. The reality is that you can do many things with each major and that you will have many jobs (and careers) over your lifetime. To help you make informed and thoughtful decisions, check out the following major/career exploration model.

The braided knot is an ancient design utilized within a wide range of cultures, often as a symbol of a desired interconnectedness and unity between a person and their environment. We’ll use this symbol to describe your exploration process as an ongoing cycle where you gain a deeper knowledge about yourself, your major, your career, and the potential connections that exist between all three. This exploration cycle draws upon a variety of tools, tests, activities and experiences that can help you to identify a cluster of careers and range of associated majors.

Already know what you want to major in? Confident in which career you want to pursue? Don’t turn the page! The following popular tools will be helpful to you.

It doesn’t matter if you start with Self Exploration, Career Exploration or Major Exploration. You’re on an interconnected path of exploration and discovery!

There is no single tool or test that can tell you exactly what you “should” do. The career reality is that there is no single, perfect option.

If you start your exploration cycle with Self Exploration, check out some of the Career or Major exploration tools to see if the results confirm, challenge, or modify your thinking and plans.

Still stuck? Set up an appointment with a career consultant to discuss which careers/majors are a good fit for you. Make sure you bring any Handbook worksheets or assessment results to your appointment! Learn more about career advising at CareerNetwork.msu.edu/Advising.
“I’m not really sure what I want to do . . .”

Self-Exploration

Learn more about your primary skills, interests, values, and goals.

- **Choices 360** is a career assessment that evaluates your interests, values, and beliefs about your work skills. The assessment provides a wealth of information about occupations and related majors and allows you to create a career goal plan. [Go to the careernetwork.msu.edu website and search for “Choices 360” to get the MSU login Access Key.](https://careernetwork.msu.edu)

- **16 Personalities** is a free online assessment that can help you gain an understanding and appreciation of your personality type and communication style. Take this assessment to better understand yourself before considering which career or major would be a good fit for you. [Run an online search for “16 personalities”.](https://www.16personalities.com)

- **Purpose Compass Planning** exercise is an integrative self-assessment tool that will help you articulate some of your primary skills, interests, values, and ways you want to help others. This information then helps you identify majors and careers that best align with your top choices. [You can find this exercise on pages 18-19.](https://www.careerinstitute.com/)

Career exploration

Learn about different kinds of careers and identify the ones that are best aligned with your primary interests, skills, values and goals.

- **Candid Career** provides an interactive way to explore careers through thousands of short 1-2 minute video clips. Use Candid Career to discover new career fields, see the types of jobs people pursue with your major, and hear from real industry professionals about their path and what it takes to get hired in their field. [Find Candid Career at the CareerNetwork.msu.edu website.](https://careernetwork.msu.edu)

- **O*Net** allows you to view detailed descriptions of occupations, as they relate to industry, level of education and training, job outlooks, and sustainability. Use O*Net’s “Skills Search” to match skills you’d like to use in your future career. [Search for “O Net” at the CareerNetwork.msu.edu website.](https://careernetwork.msu.edu)

- **LinkedIn.com** is the world’s largest professional social media platforms, designed to help you share information about yourself as well as learn about other people, companies and schools. The best part about LinkedIn is that it allows you to turn connections into opportunities! [www.linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

Major exploration

Identify some of the majors which will help you to reach your career and life goals.

- **What Can I Do With This Major?** is a resource for students interested in exploring career opportunities by major. Click on majors to see common career areas, employers, and strategies designed to maximize career opportunities. This only works if you search for “with this major” at the CareerNetwork.msu.edu website.

- **Spartan Interest Assessment** is a tool created by MSU to help you determine majors you may enjoy based on your preferences. [Go to website NSSC.msu.edu and search for “interest assessment”.](https://nssc.msu.edu)

- **Destination Survey** describes the post-graduate outcomes of MSU undergraduates. This report shows you what graduating seniors from your major have gone on to do. It’s a great place to find job titles, employers, and names of graduate/professional schools. [Go to website CareerNetwork.msu.edu and search “destination”.](https://careernetwork.msu.edu)