The world of work is always changing. With advances in technology, new jobs are created every day. As you explore major and career options, you’ll get opinions from many sources, and it might feel like you have to decide your whole future right now. No pressure!! The good news is you have time to figure it out, and this Career Handbook and the Career Services Network are here to help you through these important decisions. Let’s take a look at some common misconceptions about choosing a major and career.

Career Myth: “My major = My career”

Career Reality: Most employers care more about your transferable skills and experiences than a specific major (see page 28 for details)

Career Myth: “My first job = My forever job”

Career Reality: The average person will have around 12 jobs in a lifetime, lasting about 4 years each

Career Myth: “Most students have it all figured out”

Career Reality: 70% of MSU students change their major at least once!
Thinking about graduate school?

Like planning for your first job, graduate school planning takes time and careful consideration. Start thinking and planning now about whether or not graduate or professional school is necessary to achieve your career goals.

Here are some questions to consider:

- Do I really want to continue my education, or am I just trying to postpone entering the "real world"?
- Should I wait on grad school until after I gain some full time work experience?
- Have I explored what career options are available with my intended graduate degree?
- What do I need to do to become a strong candidate for my graduate/professional school program (undergraduate experiences and academic performance)?

Here are some steps to help you start preparing:

- Do an online search of schools with grad programs that interest you
- Review admissions requirements (grade point average, internships, etc.) for each program of interest
- Meet with an admissions representative for a program of interest to learn more
- Investigate any entrance exam requirements for graduate or professional schools of interest
- Attend the annual Graduate & Law School Fair to conveniently talk with a lot of schools! (see page 63)