

Guide to Choosing a Major

**Although these suggestions are general and widely applicable, there are exceptions to every rule. We highly recommend and welcome you to visit the Career Center for a consultation with one of our career counselors.*

I have no idea what to major in!

If you are in your first year semester at UNC Asheville and are undecided about a major, don't worry! It is a good idea to use your first year to choose interesting courses to explore different fields of study, while also fulfilling graduation requirements. The course requirements of the Integrative Liberal Studies Program prepare you for all majors and are a priority during your first year. Take a variety of courses to explore different topics - remember that courses you take may count toward graduation requirements, even if they do not count toward the major you eventually choose. Trying a course in an entirely unfamiliar subject can give you valuable information that may shape your program of study and may lead you to discover a previously unknown interest, passion or skill. If you are still struggling to choose a major after a few semesters, there are many resources available to help you make the decision.

How can I choose a major if I haven't chosen a career?

At a liberal arts institution, choosing a major does not equal choosing a career. While some majors are more compatible with certain occupations than others, being prepared for a career depends on much more than your major. So, choose a major that you will enjoy. You want to take classes that will stimulate and motivate you to engage in other activities such as internships, study abroad, leadership, civic engagement, and undergraduate research. You will perform best in an area for which you have enthusiasm.

Where do I get help to choose a major?

- **Meet with your Academic Advisor.** Students at UNC Asheville are required to see their academic advisor at least once a semester, but are strongly encouraged to stay in regular contact with them throughout the year. Advisors are skilled in guiding students through the major/minor selection process and can also help with course scheduling, career and graduate school planning, and personal and academic difficulties.
- **Get to know yourself.** Self-assessments, including the Strong Interest Inventory and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) personality inventory (available at the UNC Asheville Career Center) help many undecided students choose their major. Other [self-assessment tools](#) are also available.
- **Interview students, faculty, and professionals in your field of interest.** Nothing is more informed than the voice of experience. Talk to individuals who have pursued paths you are considering.

Some questions to consider:

- How did you decide on this major? What class, professor, etc. convinced you?
 - What careers have some of your former students pursued with their major?
 - What are the opportunities for experiential learning with this major?
 - What college classes have proven to be most valuable to your profession?
 - What advice do you have for a student who is considering a career in your field?
- **Research, research, research.** Read descriptions of academic departments, majors, and courses in the [UNC Asheville Course Catalog](#). Take courses from several different departments (this will help with general education requirements, too). Which do you find most appealing? Which utilize your strengths? Be sure to utilize the graduation [checksheets](#) and ["What can I do with this major?"](#) Site.
 - **Visit the Career Center.** Simply talking through your options with a Career Counselor will be of great benefit. Set up an appointment on RockyLink, or by calling the Career Center at 828-251-6515.