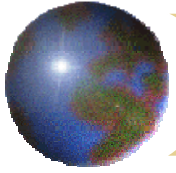


GET DECISIVE!

The Ins and Outs of Choosing a Major

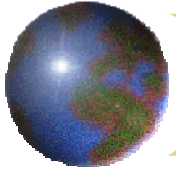


OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES
HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE *Your Future Opportunities*



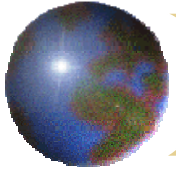
Myths and Self-Defeating Ideas about Choosing a Major

- It is preferable to avoid choosing a major than to choose the “wrong” one...
- A wrong decision is a failure and this is horrible...
- There is only one right major for me, and true happiness is impossible until I find it...
- If I really had my head together, I would know exactly what I wanted to major in...



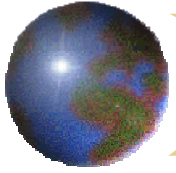
Relax!

- Most students don't know what they want to major in
- Even though most technical majors don't give you much time to explore, use the time wisely to talk to faculty as well as juniors and seniors in the majors of interest
- You will be exposed you to many of different disciplines with the technical majors at HMC



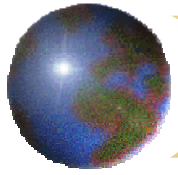
Process to Choosing a Major

1. Determine your own definition
2. Experiment
3. Evaluate
4. Research
5. Make a Decision
6. Concentrate/Focus



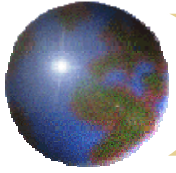
Evaluate: Self-Reflection

- What activities do I like to do?
- What clubs/teams do I currently belong to?
- What do I think is important?
- What subjects spur my curiosity?
- What classes have I particularly enjoyed?
- Which faculty members have I clicked with?



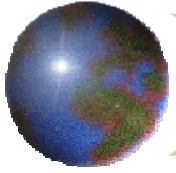
Resources

- College Catalog
- Advisors
- Professors
- Classmates
- Alumni
- Family and Friends
- Office of Career Services



Think of activities you enjoy doing...

- Accepting differences
- Advising
- Analyzing
- Being of service
- Clarifying others' goals
- Commitment to learning
- Dealing with a variety of people
- Group facilitating
- Investigating data
- Managing projects/teams
- Problem solving
- Research skills
 - Collecting data
 - Analyzing data
- Teaching and treating people fairly
- Two-way dialogue
- Working in teams



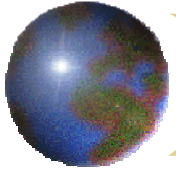
Exploring Occupations

- ⊕ Occupational Outlook Handbook

 - ⊞ <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

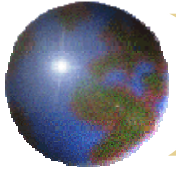
- O*NET

 - ⊞ <http://online.onetcenter.org/>



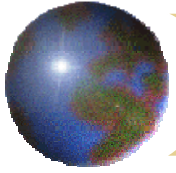
Reality Check ...

- Do I want to be a doctor, but can't stand the sight of blood?
- Do I want to be an engineer, but don't like math?
- Do I want to be a music major but can't carry a tune?



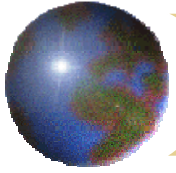
Where Do I Go from Here?

- 1st year—take all the classes, and join all of the clubs that look interesting. Immerse yourself in the Mudd experience.
- 2nd year—set a date, narrow your options, and make a decision.



Some thoughts

- Even if you choose the perfect major, studies show you will change occupations up to *eight* times after you leave college
- College is about expanding your horizons, not prematurely closing them down
- The “missing links” between major and occupation are internships



Wrapping Things Up

- The process of choosing a major helps prepare you for that of choosing an occupation
- Your career encompasses all aspects of your life
- Relax and enjoy the process