

STEPS FOR EXPLORING A MAJOR

Spend time thinking about who you are and what sparks your interest

- What classes in the past did you get your best grades in?
- What classes did you most enjoy?
- Do you like reading and writing? Calculating and experimenting? Getting involved with hands-on activities? Sports? Organizing social activities? Working independently or with others?
- Write a list of your academic strengths and where you feel most challenged
- Write a list of your interests/passions—what makes you happy and satisfied?
- Consider an assessment tool such as: Strong Interest Inventory, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Jungian Typology, Strengths Quest, (See the Advising Center advisors to obtain a referral)

Now take a good look at the majors that are available

- Check out the catalog at www.humboldt.edu/registrar/catalog/
- Find more information about Majors & Programs (including four year course plans) at <http://www.humboldt.edu/programs/type>
- Pick out five or ten majors that intrigue or interest you. Add a few that you know absolutely nothing about—who knows, the one you don't know about might be your future!
- Read the major descriptions. Pay attention to what careers the majors can prepare you for
- View course descriptions for the major at the back of the catalog
- Write a list of five possible majors and explore these in more detail
- Check out careers linked to your major: http://humboldt.edu/career/resources/majors_index

Cast a wide net

- Choose General Education (GE) courses that have possibility as a major.
- Talk to other students. Find some juniors or seniors—how did they choose their major? Do they enjoy it? Why?
- Talk to faculty in possible majors to learn more (from <http://www.humboldt.edu/see> A to Z index at the top of the page to find department office locations and contact information)
- Check out Clubs & Activities! Most majors have clubs: <http://www.humboldt.edu/clubs/>

Come see us!

THE ACADEMIC AND CAREER ADVISING CENTER

Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm

Gist Hall 114

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Visit our website: www.humboldt.edu/acac

QUESTIONS FOR FACULTY OR DEPARTMENT CHAIRS WHEN EXPLORING MAJORS

These questions were created by students for students:

General

- What do students love most about this major? What do they dislike?
- What kinds of students succeed in this major? Any advice from current or past students for being successful in the major?
- How interactive are the courses required for the major? (professor to student ratio, field work, hands-on)
- What is networking like in this major? What about the student community?
- Are there any major-specific student clubs?

Academics

- What is the estimated time to complete this major? How many semesters will it take?
- How many units are in this major and can I add a minor to it? Is a minor required?
- Do I need to be taking introductory classes in any particular order? Is there a cycle for the major courses? Core classes only offered in fall or spring?
- How do I best choose an option (if the program requires me to declare an emphasis)? Which courses can I take that will apply to various options?
- Do I need to take CHEM 109 or CHEM 107 for this major? BIOL 1.5 and/or BOT 105?
- Does this major have a math requirement (Stats or Calculus?)
- How flexible is the major? (subbing classes or taking alternative courses)
- Are there any grade minimums (C or C-) for major courses or the pre-reqs for major courses?
- What is the average number of students in the major courses?
- Is there a senior seminar, internship requirement or capstone project? What is involved?

Careers

- What kinds of career opportunities are there for students with this major?
- What are your recent graduates doing? Are they employed in their field? Attending Grad school?
- Are there things outside of the classroom that I could be doing (volunteering, internships, developing a portfolio)?

Other questions I have: