People are Your Greatest Resource:

Exploring Majors and Careers Through People

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STRENGTHS: Includer | Connectedness | Developer | Belief | Arranger
Our Agenda

• Discuss how “the power of people” can help with your major and career exploration
• Discuss ways to find people that you can consult with regarding your major and career options
• Explore online and campus tools & resources for major and career options
• Learn about how to conduct an Informational Interview
What can I learn from others?

- Inside Information
- How to Prepare
- Perspectives
- Stories and Examples
- Real-Life Experience
- Unfiltered Advice
What is Networking?

...the process of actively building relationships with people who share similar interests and activities.
Who is in my network?

Anyone!

Friends
Relatives
Classmates
School Connections
Advisors
Professors
Supervisors
RAs
Co-workers

Your network can be their network too!
Your Contacts’ Connections
Meeting with a Faculty Member

1. Introduce yourself
2. Attend office hours
3. Ask for feedback
4. Identify your career interests
5. Be curious
6. Ask intentional questions
7. Follow-up!
Using LinkedIn to Explore Majors and Careers
Hello Jason,

My name is Allie Simon and I am a freshman Exploratory student at the University of Florida. I am currently in the process of deciding on my major and exploring my career interests. While using LinkedIn to look for examples of where UF Alumni work after graduation, I came across your profile. I see that you studied Advertising and currently work at Google. I am considering Advertising as a major and I was wondering if you had a few minutes to answer some questions I had about the field? I am looking to gain more insight as I make this important decision.

Thank you for your help in advance! Go Gators!

Your Name
Informational Interviews

An informational interview offers you an opportunity to gather information about a career field, job, or employer in which you are interested.

The *purpose of an informational interview* is to expand your understanding, not to ask for a job or internship.
Informational Interviews

Conducting an informational interview will help you actively:
• Secure firsthand information about industries, jobs, work responsibilities, career paths, work settings, and organizational cultures
• Build contacts and referrals for your personal network
• Increase your self-confidence and interviewing skills
• Gather insight for stronger career decisions

Ways to conduct an informational interview:
• In-person
• Phone
• Skype

*Make sure to ask your contact for the most convenient way to conduct the interview.
What questions do I ask?

• Prepare ahead of time!
• Open-ended vs. Closed Questions
• What information will help you move closer towards a decision?
• Is there anyone else/other information they would recommend?
Thank You Notes and Following-Up

Your checklist to help you with your follow-up:

- Get their business card
- Timely
- Mention a specific topic you discussed
- Simple, short and straightforward

- Follow up after meeting good contacts:
- Phone Call
- Email
- Thank you note (handwritten or email)
- Connecting on LinkedIn
Synthesizing Your Information

• What “data” did you gain from your conversation?
  • Information
  • Resources/Tools
  • Feelings/Reactions/Energy
  • Next steps

• What “data” are you still missing?
  • What would help you move closer towards making a decision?
How can the Career Connections Center help?

• Career Planning Appointments
• Majors and Minors Fair: Wednesday, October 14th from 10 AM-2 PM on Career Fair Plus app
• Career Conversations
• C3 Labs (Wandering Map)
• Career Events
• Employer Hosted Events
Email Your Follow-up Questions to:

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