

Undecided Student Activity Checklist

OR

How to Find the Right Major for You

If you would like assistance with selecting activities on this list that might help you select a major, please meet with one of the academic advisors.

- ❑ Use the list of majors and minors on our website or in the on-line college catalog as a starting point to learn which ones might be of interest to you. During this task, strictly focus on whether you find the subject interesting. Do not focus on what type of career the major leads to or other people's opinion about the major. Those kinds of considerations are for later in the process.
- ❑ Visit with the DUS (Director of Undergraduate Studies) in a major that interests you in order to learn more about the program.
- ❑ Investigate if you are a good candidate for assessment instruments offered by the Career Center. These assessments include the Myer's Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the Strong Interest Inventory. A career counselor will determine if this activity is right for you.
- ❑ Browse through the entire *Schedule of Classes* and note the titles, departments, and subjects that you find interesting. Write a list of at least 15 classes that sound exciting to you. Include the course number and title on your list.
- ❑ Write a list of ten things that interest you. This is not a list of majors or courses; it is a general list of things that you want to explore. For example, this might include activities you regularly do, hobbies, passions, topics of interest, etc.
- ❑ Make an appointment with a career counselor in the Career Center on the third floor of *Garland Hall*.
- ❑ In 15 minutes or less write a paragraph describing why you decided to go to college. This isn't intended to be an academic assignment, so don't worry about form or style. Open up a fresh Word document and write your thoughts down as quickly as you can.

- ❑ Talk to a close confidant about being undecided. This could be a parent, sibling, roommate, college friend, high school friend, or significant other. It should be someone who knows you reasonably well and is willing to listen to your thoughts about being undecided. Let this person know at the beginning of the conversation that he/she is not expected to provide you with an answer; they are just there to listen.
- ❑ Make an appointment with a counselor in the Counseling Center located at 3003 N. Charles Street, Suite S-200.
- ❑ For two weeks, write a little each day about what you think might be interesting to do as a career or major. One day this might be one sentence; another day you might write a whole page. After two weeks, read back over your entries and write down at least two themes that you can see in your notes. Use this journal to learn about yourself. You aren't expected to share it with anyone.
- ❑ Go to the Career Center website and take a look at the information on what alumni have done with various majors from JHU. Consider using Johns Hopkins Connect to identify alumni who have careers that sound interesting to you and arrange an informational interview. For assistance with this task, please visit the Career Center.
- ❑ Visit Career Center websites of several different colleges and review the section on "What Can I Do With a Major In?" The University of Tennessee's web site is a good example.

This checklist is intended to provide you with ways to learn more about yourself, your interests and the majors that might apply. If you are finding that the more you learn about your options, the harder it is for you to make a decision about a major, we recommend talking with your academic advisor or a counselor in the Career Center or Counseling Center.