

Career Exploration Strategies

Once you've had the opportunity to do some self-assessment and investigate the "puzzle pieces" of your interests, values, personality and skills, it's a good time to see how those pieces connect to specific careers. As you start to uncover careers, it's also beneficial to dig deeper and find out as much as you can.

Below you will find some strategies for career exploration. It is not an all-inclusive list, but a list to get you started on the path. Consider the following:

- If you're not sure what you can do with your college major, check out the following site for some ideas:
<http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/majors>.
- Review career profiles from reliable sites on the Internet, including the following:
 - America's Career InfoNet – www.careerinfonet.org – Click on "Occupation Profile"
 - Occupational Outlook Handbook – www.bls.gov/oco
 - O*NET Online – <http://online.onetcenter.org>
- Read books about specific careers – either from your local library, book store or from online sites like Amazon. For a starter list of some good career/industry-specific books go to the following site: www.quintcareers.com/industry_books.html.
- Explore current job openings in your field(s) of interest. Use a job board such as www.indeed.com, www.simplyhired.com or www.careerjet.com to find relevant openings. Look at multiple listings to get the best results, and then look for the patterns and trends in specific types of positions.
- Locate professional associations related to your career of interest. They can provide valuable information about a specific field. You can find relevant professional associations on the following sites: www.careeroverview.com/professional-associations.html or www.weddles.com.
- Conduct "informational interviews" with people working in a career of interest to you. Check out our handout on informational interviewing for much more information about this great career exploration and networking strategy.

- Arrange a job shadowing experience (perhaps with someone you conducted an informational interview with) to observe – first-hand – what they do in their career on a day-to-day basis.
- Consider interning, volunteering or finding a part-time or temporary job in an area that relates to your career interest. There’s nothing better than learning about a career through hands-on experience.
- Take advantage of reliable career sites on the Internet to come up with other ideas. One such site is: www.quintcareers.com/career_research_checklist.html.
- Schedule an appointment by contacting career@clarkson.edu.