



CAREERSERVICES UCSB

Building 599
(805) 893-4412
8:30am to 4:30pm; Monday – Friday
career.sa.ucsb.edu

CAREER & MAJOR EXPLORATION

Navigating Your Future

Use this path as a starting point to help you **choose a major** or **choose a career path**. Once you've done the exploration, you might pick a different GPS track or two that best match your future goals or a major in which you'll do well and enjoy. **Remember: major does not determine career.**

Gaucho Paths to Success (GPS) is a career education program offering you a framework to effectively pursue various occupational areas, through optimizing your academic, experiential, and career development preparation.

EXPLORE OPTIONS

Here are some initial questions to ask yourself:

- ♦ What classes have you enjoyed and excelled in (during high school and college)?
- ♦ Do you have any hobbies that can be turned into a career?
- ♦ What careers fit your personality?
- ♦ What careers would you like to know more about?
- ♦ Does anyone you know have your "dream job"?
- ♦ What are some of your best skills?
- ♦ Which majors sound exciting or interesting?
- ♦ Which, if any, of the Gaucho Paths interest you?
- ♦ Where have you enjoyed working/volunteering/interning in the past?

Career Preparation

- Sign up for any of these FREE assessments with a peer advisor in Career Resource Room (CRR):
 - ♦ **Strong Interest Inventory**
 - ♦ **Myers-Briggs Type Indicator**
 - ♦ **Focus 2**
 - ♦ **Strengths Finder**
 - ♦ **Career Leader**
- Read **library books** in the *Career Exploration* section of CRR, as well as peruse the industry books to see if anything stands out
- Browse through many of the career binders of **online career library**
- Check out Careers by Major on Career Services' website to see which majors interest you
- Create a Handshake account to stay up-to-date with Career Services events and opportunities
- Attend a "Choosing a Major Workshop," Industry Panels, and other specialty workshops at Career Services during the quarter to give you further exposure to major and career possibilities
- Attend a **LinkedIn** workshop to learn how to research companies, industries, and what UCSB Alumni are doing outside of the university
- Conduct **Informational Interviews** to learn more about peoples' career paths, including their majors and schooling

Academic Preparation

- Speak with undergraduate academic and peer advisors to learn more about various majors, concentrations, minors, and certificate programs or to ensure you are on track with your major
- Talk to department of interest to determine process for declaring major, including prerequisites
- With some of your preferred major choices, go to the major departments to see what, if any, requirements are in place in order for you to declare or switch majors
- Maintain a competitive GPA within your current major or to make declaring or switching easier
- Utilize campus resources (e.g., CLAS, professors/TA office hours, study groups or private tutoring)
- Meet with professors during their office hours to discuss your career goals, their career paths, learn how you can get involved in research, and/or do an independent study or honors contract that involves research
- Sit in on one or two meetings of upper division courses in majors you are considering to see if the material is interesting to you
- Skim textbooks in the UCSB Bookstore and read the UCSB catalog to see which majors and classes catch your eye
- Explore **general education and introductory** courses to find something that piques interest

Personal Preparation

- Check out different **student organizations** through Office of Student Life in your area(s) of interest, Greek Life, and residence hall leadership to meet people, get exposure to different fields, and gain skills
- Talk to other students** about their majors and career interests; talk to parents, professors, alumni about their career paths
- Nurture **hobbies** and interests- they might lead you to discover your path
- Travel** during summer and breaks to get exposure to other cultures and new experiences

GET EXPERIENCE

Connect with Career

- Sign up for **Handshake** and check out internships/part-time jobs
- Attend **Get Experience** workshop

Internships

- Review **Internship Toolkit** on GauchoSpace
- Check out **www.Internships.com** and **Going Global**
- Sign up for your **academic department's listserv**

Part-time employment

- Work, regardless of where it is or what you are doing, will provide significant **transferable skills** and further information into what work environment you prefer, what work tasks satisfy you (as well as dissatisfy you), help build your resume, and get you closer to your career goals.

International

- Study abroad** and/or travel

Networking

- Set up **LinkedIn profile** to build connections and see where UCSB alumni work, what they are doing with their majors, and what skills they are utilizing

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Join one or more **student organizations** based on your area(s) of interest

Volunteer/Community Service

- Seek **volunteer opportunities** to get exposure to different industries
- Get involved with your **local community** to give back and make connections

Job Shadowing

- Talking to professionals** in the fields that interest you are a great way to find out more of the day-to-day responsibilities involved in careers. You are able to see what the professionals enjoy in their careers, as well as what challenges them and some of the drawbacks to those positions.

Leadership

- Campus organizations** are great places to develop leadership skills but leadership can involve any organization on or off-campus that you are committed to. It's important to find opportunities within organizations that you are deeply interested.

Research

- Connect with professors to obtain **research assistant positions**
- Check out **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA)** for opportunities to work with faculty

Lab

- Explore **lab opportunities**

MOVE FORWARD

Major

Go to the new major department to change or declare your new major

Gaucha Path

Pick up the GPS handout(s) that best match your interests and start!