

STEPS TO CHOOSING A MAJOR

FRESHMAN ACADEMIC ADVISING SERVICES (FAAS), SU (BLDG 80) ROOM 201
WWW.FAU.EDU/FRESHMANADVISING

INFORMATION GATHERING YEAR ONE (0-29 CREDIT HOURS)

FIRST SEMESTER

- Read through the information provided on the **Exploratory/Undeclared** website: www.fau.edu/exploratorystudents
 - a. Review the majors available at FAU. Eliminate majors in which you are definitely not interested.
 - b. To narrow the remaining majors check out the FAU MyPlan website at <http://fau.myplan.com>. The FAU MyPlan website provides access to numerous resources including:
 - ❖ Information on Careers
 - ❖ What can I do with a major in...
 - c. As an additional resources you can also consult the Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/oco/), O*Net (<http://online.onetcenter.org>), and Career One Stop (<http://www.careeronestop.org>) for information on careers, education requirements, salaries, working conditions and more.
- Go to the Career Development Center (CDC) (www.fau.edu/cdc/).
 - a. Take a self-assessment to learn more about your strengths, values, interests, and limitations. There are many self-assessments. They serve as tools to guide career decisions.
 - b. Attend a workshop on **Choosing a Major**.
 - c. Work with a Career Counselor as often to explore your major and career options.

SECOND SEMESTER

- Visit the CDC's Career Library for more information on various careers.
- Participate in campus activities or join a student organization/club that may be related to your intended major.
- Speak with your professors about subjects or courses that you find interesting.
- Take an **introductory** course in an area or subject that interests you.
- Discuss your progress with your academic advisor and career counselor.

THIRD SEMESTER

- Familiarize yourself with degree requirements for the majors you are considering.
- Revisit the Career Development Center if you haven't narrowed your focus

DECISION-MAKING YEAR TWO (30-59 CREDIT HOURS)

FOURTH SEMESTER

- Select electives that provide transferable skills in communication, computers, foreign languages, etc.
- Research companies/organizations that you have an interest in.
- Consider internships, Cooperative Education (Co-op) or volunteer work, to gain real work experience and transferable skills in human relations, management and leadership, etc.
- Meet with a career counselor at the CDC to begin **setting career goals**.
- Meet with your academic advisor to **discuss your choice(s) of major**.

FIFTH SEMESTER

- Attend a Resume Writing Workshop.
- Attend a Practice Interview workshop.
- Apply for an internship, Co-op, or volunteer for an organization with a mission that you support.
- Utilize the CDC's Alumni Career Mentor Program to learn more about your potential major and career.

SIXTH SEMESTER

- Use your time as an intern or as a volunteer to confirm your choice of major.
- Notify Freshman Academic Advising Services (FAAS) and your new college of your chosen **major**.

BEYOND 60 HOURS...

- Learn about professional organizations in your chosen field of study.
- Attend career preparatory workshops, the Business Etiquette Luncheon, etc.
- Continue working with the CDC for career information related to your major.

***Keep in mind that one major can lead to a diversity of careers.
It is okay to change your mind as you learn more about the possibilities open to you.***

- **Freshman Academic Advising Services** - www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising (561) 297-3064 E-mail: freshmanadvising@fau.edu
- **Career Development Center** - www.fau.edu/cdc (561) 297-3533
- For tutoring and other services visit the **Office of Student Retention** - www.fau.edu/retention/ (561) 297-2243
- For help with time management, stress management, counseling, and help in transitioning to FAU, the Counseling Center can help <http://wise.fau.edu/counseling/> (561) 297-3540
- To get involved on campus or to learn about student clubs and organizations visit **Student Development and Activities** (<http://www.fau.edu/sda/>) and the **Campus Volunteer Center** (www.fauvolunteer.org/)

We are available to assist you during your decision making process.