

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.

- ❑ Learn the majors and minors available at Hopkins. Use a list of the majors and minors, available on our website or in the 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 types of considerations are for later in the process.
- ❑ Visit with the DUS (Director of Undergraduate Studies) in a major of interest to you to learn more about the major.
- ❑ Investigate if you are a good candidate for assessment instruments offered by the Career Center. These are called the Myer's Briggs Type Indicator 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 for courses. Write a list of at least 15 classes that sound interesting to you. Include course number and the 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 interest you. It might include activities you regularly do, hobbies, passions, topics of interests, for example.
- ❑ Make an appointment with a career counselor in the Career Center on the third floor of Garland Hall.
- ❑ Write a paragraph describing why you decided to go to college in no more than fifteen minutes. This isn't intended to be an academic assignment, so don't worry about form or style. Don't think too hard. Open up a fresh Word document and write it down as quickly as you can.

- ❑ Talk to a close confidant about your undecidedness about your major. 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 an answer, just listen.
- ❑ Make an appointment with a counselor in the Counseling Center on the third floor of Garland Hall.
- ❑ For two weeks, write a bit each day about what you think might be interesting for a career or major. One day, this might simply 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 to yourself. 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 HopkinsNet 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 is quite nice, for example.

This checklist is intended to provide you ideas of how you might learn about yourself, your interests, and majors. Often with more information, students find that they are ready to select a major. Sometimes students find that time also allows them to gain clarity in what they would like to major in; however, this is not true for everyone. Some students find that the more they learn about their options, the harder it is for them to make a decision about a major. If this last example is you, we recommend talking with your academic advisor or a counselor in the Career Center or Counseling Center.