



# CAREER PLANNING FOR UNDECIDED STUDENTS

**Career Development is a life-long process that involves  
a three-stage process:  
Discover, Test, and Choose.**

**Experiences and insight influence the career decisions you make.**

**DISCOVER** Discover more about yourself and more about careers. Identify anything you seem to have a talent for, activities you enjoy doing, and what is important to you. Explore industries, employers, and occupations that are of interest to you. Think about ways to develop marketable skills. **Examples:** computer, communication, analytical thinking, foreign language, leadership skills, etc.

You can learn more about yourself by talking to family members, friends, faculty members, academic advisors, and career counselors. You can also do some self-assessment exercises found on our Career Planning website.

You can learn more about careers by reading, talking with others, job shadowing, and informational interviews.

**TEST** Test your self-knowledge against reality through course, extra-curricular activities, informational interviews and work experiences including part-time, summer, internship and full-time positions. Even volunteer experiences can provide the opportunity to "test" a career field. Engage in new activities to determine what you can do and what you enjoy.

**CHOOSE** Make plans and implement choices that are consistent with your self-knowledge and the results of your testing.

**Examples:** choice of major or minor, whether to study abroad, which summer position to pursue, and which full-time job offer to accept. Eliminate some of the uncertainty in making a decision. Gather as much information as possible about yourself and the world of work to minimize the risks.

You will continue to revisit this process over and over during college and throughout your career. As you continue to grow personally, you'll discover new parts of yourself that need to be tested. In turn, this will influence your choices. Your career grows with you!

**For more information on this topic, please visit the Office of Career Services, Ciszek Hall.**

**Adapted from Peterson's Annual Guide to Graduate School, Book 1, Graduate and Professional Programs: An Overview 1998.**

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