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# Making a *MAJOR* Decision

**CONNECT. INSPIRE. EMPOWER**



# Agenda

**Major Choice:  
Fact or Myth**

**The Major  
Planning Process**

**Career Center  
& Exploration  
Resources**

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# What You'll Learn Today

*At the end of this workshop, you will be able to...*



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**Identify Career Center and external resources that will guide you in deciding on your college major**



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**Understand what factors play into what major(s) are right for you and your career ambitions**



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**Debunk myths that your major automatically equals what careers you can choose from**



COMMUNICATION



PROFESSIONALISM



CRITICAL THINKING



TEAM WORK



NACE<sup>®</sup>

## CAREER READINESS COMPETENCIES

Obtaining requisite competencies that broadly prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace.



EQUITY & INCLUSION



LEADERSHIP



CAREER AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT



TECHNOLOGY



# FACT OR MYTH #1

The vast majority of students find themselves in a career field related to their major.

**MYTH**



# Myth

According to data from Resume Builder, a national survey conducted found that 47% of college-educated workers reported not working in the field of their major. The survey also showed that employment in field of study varies by major.

*Resume Builder, 2023*





## **FACT OR MYTH #2**

Declaring a major before 2nd year still allows students to graduate in four years.

**FACT**



# Fact

*About one third of students change their major at least once. Data shows students who made a FINAL decision by the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year were still able to graduate in four years.*

## **Major exploration can lead to:**

- Knowledge of all the options
- Identifying a major that fits interests and skills

*National Center for Education Statistics, 2023*





## **FACT OR MYTH #3**

Internships are a great way to gain real world experience and often lead to job offers.

**FACT**



**FACT:**  
**Most Sought Out  
Attributes by  
Employers**

## Choosing Between Equally Qualified Candidates

**FIGURE 48: INFLUENCE OF ATTRIBUTES**

ATTRIBUTE	2023 AVERAGE INFLUENCE RATING*	2022 AVERAGE INFLUENCE RATING*	2021 AVERAGE INFLUENCE RATING*
HAS COMPLETED AN INTERNSHIP WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION	4.5	4.4	4.5
HAS INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE IN YOUR INDUSTRY	4.3	4.3	4.3
MAJOR	3.7	3.8	3.8
HAS GENERAL WORK EXPERIENCE	3.7	3.7	3.6
HAS HELD LEADERSHIP POSITION	3.5	3.6	3.6
HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CLUBS, SPORTS, STUDENT GOVERNMENT, ETC.)	3.3	3.5	3.4
HAS NO WORK EXPERIENCE	3.2	3.3	3.2
HIGH GPA (3.0 OR ABOVE)	2.9	3.1	3.2
HAS DONE VOLUNTEER WORK	2.7	2.7	2.8
SCHOOL ATTENDED	2.3	2.6	2.5
IS FLUENT IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2.1	2.1	2.1
HAS STUDIED ABROAD	1.8	2.0	1.8
OTHER	3.8	3.0	3.9

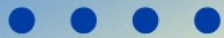
\*5-point scale, where 1=No influence at all, 2=Not much influence, 3=Somewhat of an influence, 4=Very much influence, and 5=Extreme influence.



## FACT OR MYTH #4

GPA is among the top concerns for employers when hiring prospective students

**MYTH**



# MYTH: Employee's View of Candidates GPA Screening

Figure 2  
Screen Candidates by GPA, by Percent of Respondents



Source: Job Outlook 2024, National Association of Colleges and Employers





# CAREER DECISION MAKING PROCESS

## KNOW YOURSELF

Identify your values, interests, personality type and skills.

## EXPLORE OPTIONS

Research career options.

Further develop your skills, network and job search strategy.

## TAKE ACTION

Reality-test fields of interest.

## GAIN EXPERIENCE

**Start with Why**

Answering "why" you want to pursue your career will help inform your career decisions and serve as a strong motivator.

What are your VIPS?

# KNOW YOURSELF



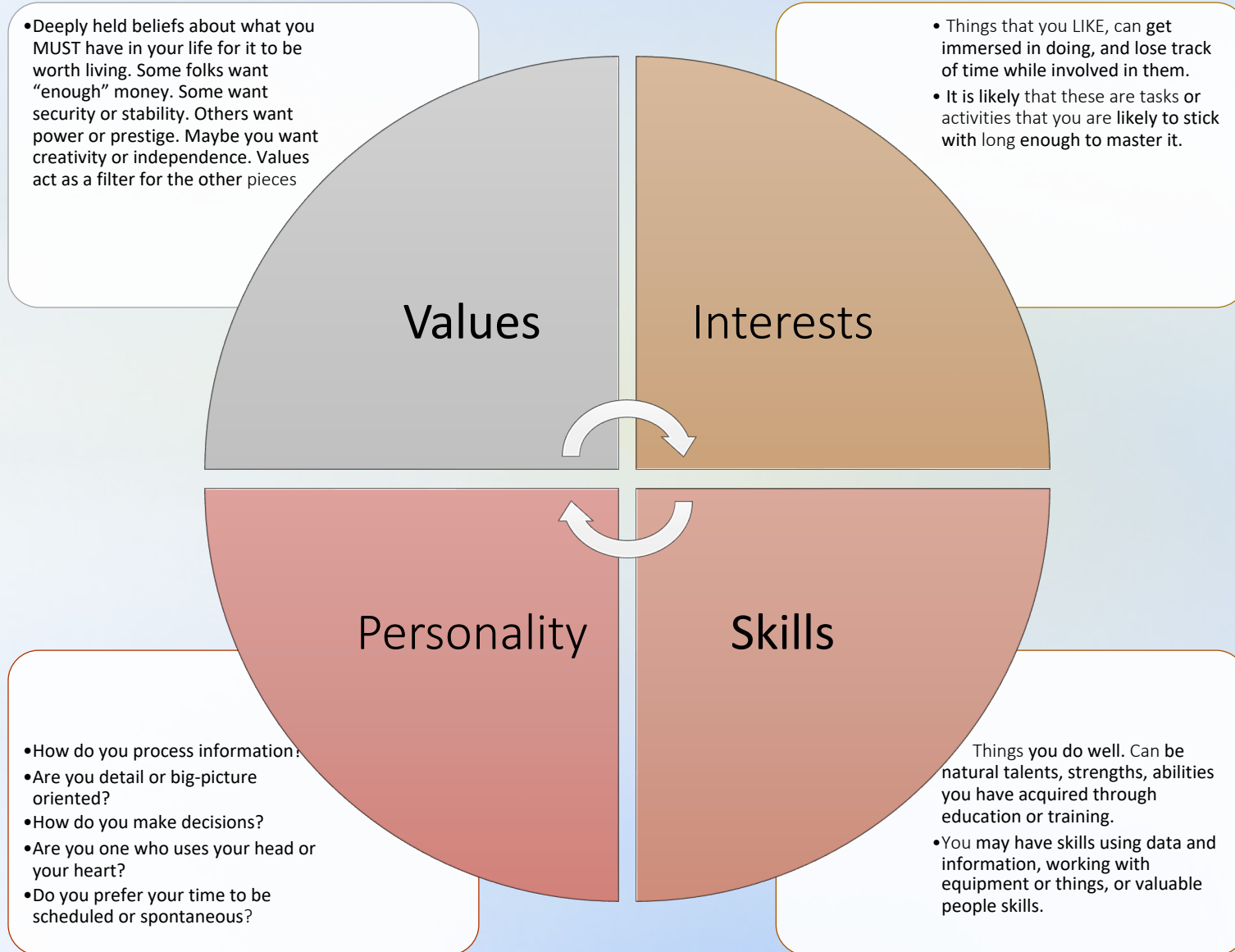
The first step in making a career decision is to identify your **values, interests, personality type** and **skills**.

These important “**who am I?**” pieces will help you generate career ideas that may be a good fit.



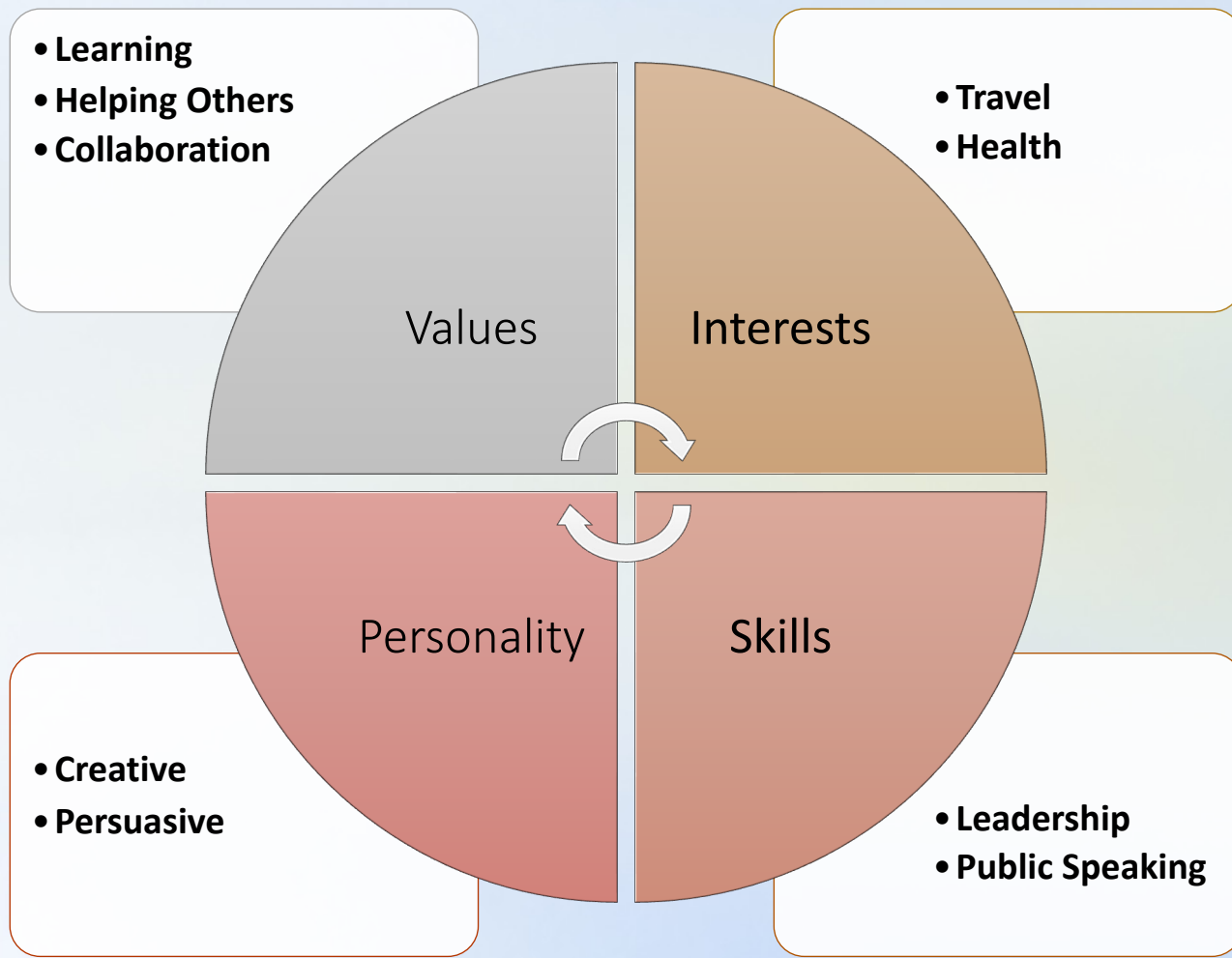


# Activity: Quick Self-Assessment



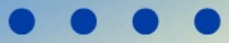


# Assess VIPS: Who Am I?



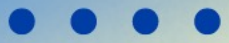
**Jonathon**



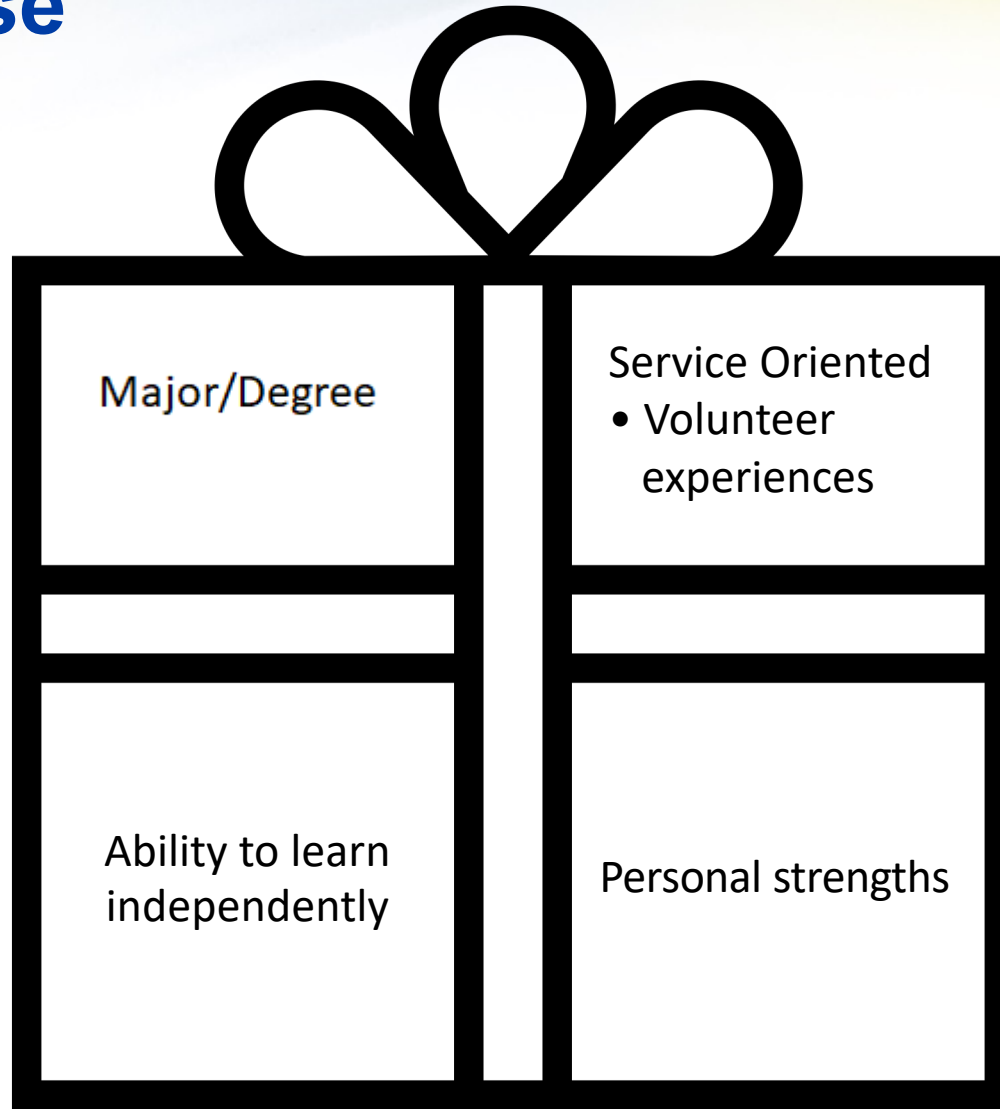


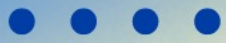
# Gift Box Exercise





# Gift Box Exercise





## Career Assessment Tools Available:

- Strong Interest Inventory
- Myers Briggs Type Indicator
- Focus 2 (via Handshake)



**careers.ucr.edu → UCR Handshake → Career Center → Resource → Focus 2**

Access Code can be found on Handshake





University of California Riverside Contact Information

FOCUS 2 CAREER - A Career, Major and Education Planning System

USER NAME

PASSWORD

[Forgot password?](#)

LOGIN

Don't have an account?  
Create your own personal account now

REGISTER

[Terms and Conditions](#)

**First time user, please  
create your account  
here!**



## Your Results

### Your Personality Type



- You focus your attention on the exploration of new ideas that can lead to improvements that can benefit people.
- Your approach to new projects is to be open minded, flexible and committed to the project goals.
- You like to work with other people who share your values and interests.
- You are enthusiastic, spontaneous, and strive for perfection in subjects that appeal to you.

### Choosing Your Career:

People with your personality type are attracted to occupations that can make a contribution to society, help other people, and improve the knowledge and the well being of others. Examples of such occupations are found in the fields of teaching, counseling, health sciences, literature, art and psychology

CONTINUE

## Your Results ⓘ



Open Minded, Enthusiastic, Observant, Creative, Spontaneous

[Filter Results](#)[ICON LEGEND](#)

## Occupations Matching Your Results

OCCUPATION	SUPPORTING MAJORS/PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-RIVERSIDE	NATIONAL MEDIAN SALARY	JOB FAMILY
ACADEMIC ADVISOR	Education	\$55,030.00	Community & Social Service
ACTOR/ACTRESS	Visual and Performing Arts Dance Theater and Drama Film/Cinema Studies Music	\$74,817.00	Arts, Entertainment, Sports, & Media
ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR	Education	\$36,500.00	Community & Social Service



# Explore

Remember that your major doesn't dictate your career.  
According to LinkedIn profiles, UCR alumni work in a variety of industries and job functions!

## Business

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Business Development  
Operations  
Accounting  
Education  
Information Technology  
Program/Project Management

## Biology

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Healthcare Services  
Biotech/Biopharma  
Research  
Education  
Business Development  
Community and Social Services

## Computer Science

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Engineering  
Information Technology  
Education  
Research  
Arts and Design  
Business Development

## Psychology

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Healthcare Services  
Education  
Community and Social Services  
Human Resources  
Research  
Information Technology



# Explore

## *Ask Questions*

### ✓ Talk to...

Academic Advisors

Graduate Students

Faculty

Alumni

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Year Students

Career Specialists

Student Orgs

✓ Look for ways to combine interests through your choice of major(s), minor(s) and areas of concentration

✓ Think about the skills/experiences you would like to gain to complement your major



# What Resources Are Available?

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# Exploration Resources

➤ **Course Catalog (p. 6 & 7)**

<https://registrar.ucr.edu/registering/catalog>

➤ **What Can I Do With This Major?**

<https://careers.ucr.edu/resources/career-planning/explore-options>

➤ **LinkedIn Alumni**

What was their major and what career path did they pursue?

<https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-california-riverside/people/>

➤ **ONET (Occupational Information Network)**

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

➤ **OOH (Occupational Outlook Handbook)**

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh>

# QUESTIONS

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# location

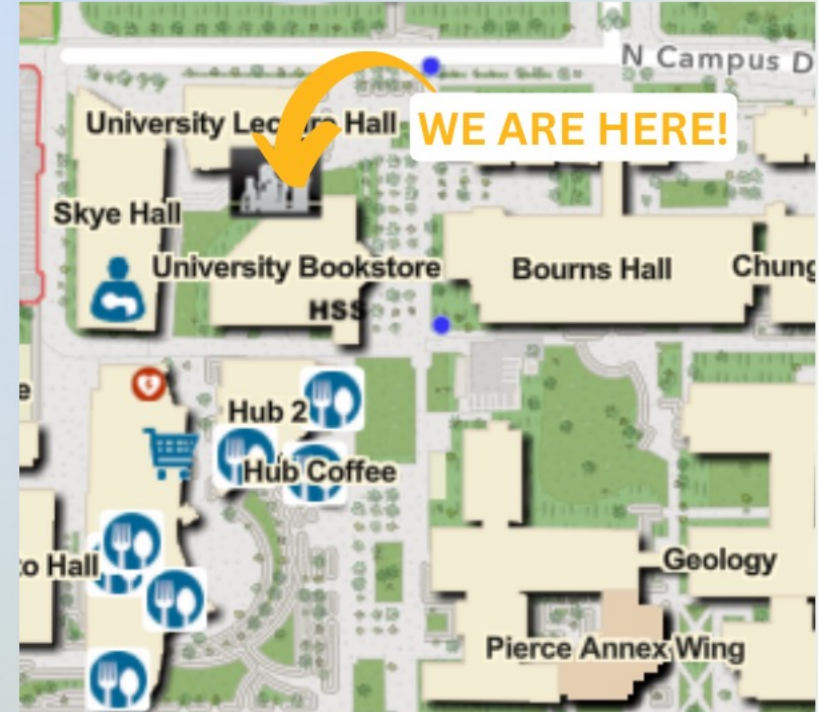
ENTRANCE IS ACROSS FROM ARC AND UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL, UNDERNEATH THE BOOKSTORE

# hours

8 AM - 5 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

*website home*

*drop in hours*





connect with us!



INSTAGRAM

@UCRCAREERCENTER



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