

Gathering Clues for Your Success—Myths and Facts

- 1. Most students entering college are certain of their academic major.**
 - ✓ National statistics vary but up to 50% of entering college students are undecided about their major.
- 2. Once a student declares a major, he/she will stick with it.**
 - ✓ 50-70% of students change their majors at least once. On the average students change their majors 3 or more times before they graduate.
- 3. Students should choose a major based on the current job market.**
 - ✓ Job markets can change quickly and dramatically. Careers in demand today may not be viable in 4-5 years. 40-60% of the jobs of the future have yet to be created.
- 4. Students should choose majors directly related to their chosen field.**
 - ✓ More than half of college graduates pursue careers not related to their major.
- 5. There is a test or an expert who can select the best major or career for you.**

You are the only expert who can determine what is best for you.

 - ✓ Take responsibility ---- Talk with a counselor
 - ✓ Explore possibilities
 - ✓ Experience the workplace
 - ✓ Reflect on what you learn
- 6. Once a student commits to a major he/she will be stuck to the career for the rest of his/her life.**
 - ✓ Majors don't necessarily lead to careers. Most people can expect 4-5 careers over a lifetime and work for an average of 10 different employers.
- 7. A student with a liberal arts major cannot expect a really good job or career.**
 - ✓ The skills developed as a liberal arts major are desired skills for employers. Employers want new hires with good communications skills, interpersonal and analytical skills.
- 8. Students only need to concentrate on getting a high GPA to improve their chances of career success.**

Employers want to hire people with a good GPA, interpersonal skills and a variety of experience.

 - ✓ Good grades
 - ✓ Extracurricular activities
 - ✓ Internships
 - ✓ Work during the summer and P/T jobs
 - ✓ Volunteer
 - ✓ Study Abroad

9. To have a really successful career a student must have a four-year degree.

- ✓ If you have skills and knowledge, you can have a good career—regardless if you have a bachelor's degree or not. 2002-2012 BLS expect 56 million job openings. 42 million of these jobs do not require a bachelor's degree.

10. It is best to put off making a career selection until a student has all the information.

It is best to move in the direction of your dreams today.

- ✓ Study, discuss, and analyze your skills, values and interests
- ✓ Match majors/careers to things you enjoy studying
- ✓ Gather experiences and try out options