Steps for Exploring a Major

Spend time thinking about who you are and what sparks your interest

• What classes in the past did you get your best grades in?
• What classes did you most enjoy?
• Do you like reading and writing? Calculating and experimenting? Getting involved with hands-on activities? Sports? Organizing social activities? Working independently or with others?
• Write a list of your academic strengths and where you feel most challenged
• Write a list of your interests/passions—what makes you happy and satisfied?
• Consider an assessment tool such as: Strong Interest Inventory, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Jungian Typology, Strengths Quest, (See the Advising Center advisors to obtain a referral)

Now take a good look at the majors that are available

• Check out the catalog at www.humboldt.edu/registrar/catalog/
• Find more information about Majors & Programs (including four year course plans) at http://www.humboldt.edu/programs/type
• Pick out five or ten majors that intrigue or interest you. Add a few that you know absolutely nothing about—who knows, the one you don’t know about might be your future!
• Read the major descriptions. Pay attention to what careers the majors can prepare you for
• View course descriptions for the major at the back of the catalog
• Write a list of five possible majors and explore these in more detail
• Check out careers linked to your major: http://humboldt.edu/career/resources/majors_index

Cast a wide net

• Choose General Education (GE) courses that have possibility as a major.
• Talk to other students. Find some juniors or seniors—how did they choose their major? Do they enjoy it? Why?
• Talk to faculty in possible majors to learn more (from http://www.humboldt.edu/see A to Z index at the top of the page to find department office locations and contact information)
• Check out Clubs & Activities! Most majors have clubs: http://www.humboldt.edu/clubs/

Come see us!

The Academic and Career Advising Center
Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm
Gist Hall 114
Email: acac@humboldt.edu
Visit our website: www.humboldt.edu/acac
QUESTIONS FOR FACULTY OR DEPARTMENT CHAIRS WHEN EXPLORING MAJORS

These questions were created by students for students:

General
• What do students love most about this major? What do they dislike?
• What kinds of students succeed in this major? Any advice from current or past students for being successful in the major?
• How interactive are the courses required for the major? (professor to student ratio, field work, hands-on)
• What is networking like in this major? What about the student community?
• Are there any major-specific student clubs?

Academics
• What is the estimated time to complete this major? How many semesters will it take?
• How many units are in this major and can I add a minor to it? Is a minor required?
• Do I need to be taking introductory classes in any particular order? Is there a cycle for the major courses? Core classes only offered in fall or spring?
• How do I best choose an option (if the program requires me to declare an emphasis)? Which courses can I take that will apply to various options?
• Do I need to take CHEM 109 or CHEM 107 for this major? BIOL 1.5 and/or BOT 105?
• Does this major have a math requirement (Stats or Calculus?)
• How flexible is the major? (subbing classes or taking alternative courses)
• Are there any grade minimums (C or C-) for major courses or the pre-reqs for major courses?
• What is the average number of students in the major courses?
• Is there a senior seminar, internship requirement or capstone project? What is involved?

Careers
• What kinds of career opportunities are there for students with this major?
• What are your recent graduates doing? Are they employed in their field? Attending Grad school?
• Are there things outside of the classroom that I could be doing (volunteering, internships, developing a portfolio)?

Other questions I have: