



Choosing a College/ Technical School Major

Your completed **Action Plan** should reveal occupations and career fields that match your *pattern*. This “Choosing a College/Technical School Major” document contains a process for relating these occupations and career fields to **college majors**. Finding a major course of study compatible with your pattern of gifts, strengths, talents, and interests will pay great long-term dividends.

Hundreds of thousands of college and university students change majors two, three, even four times before they graduate, because they haven’t followed a logical educational decision-making process. This type of experimentation will cost a person time, money, and focus. It could mean the person will wind up in a career field or occupation that does not fit his or her design or desires, or it could mean additional, expensive courses would need to be completed in order to obtain a college degree.

Someone once said, “There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.” Please devote some time and concentrated thought to determine the college major that is most closely related to your pattern and career goals.

*for educational
decision making*

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There are two methods of using the results of your *Career Direct* assessment to examine possible college majors. Both methods will require you to refer to your *Career Direct* assessment report, your completed **Action Plan**, and your *Guide to College Majors and Career Choices* (www.CareerDirectOnline.org/OnlineLibrary).

Method A: Relate college majors to those specific occupations that clearly match your *pattern*, as indicated by your Career Matching process in the **Action Plan**.



1. Select two to five specific occupations that clearly indicate a “career match” between the requirements and characteristics of the occupation and your *pattern* of work-related attributes. Refer to your completed Occupation Pattern Worksheets to select the occupations that you have found to be good matches. List these occupations below.

Occupations	<i>Guide to College Majors</i> Reference Pages
	Page _____
	Page _____
	Page _____
	Page _____
	Page _____

2. Scroll to pages 179 to 184 in your *Guide to College Majors* guidebook. Use the Adobe® Acrobat® search icon or look up each of the above occupations in the Occupational Index and list the reference pages in the corresponding right-hand column above. If you do not find the exact occupation listed, select one that is closely related.
3. Scroll to the appropriate reference pages for each occupation and explore majors that are directly related to these occupations.
4. Consult college curriculum catalogs. You will need to determine if the school you are thinking of attending offers that particular major and see if there are other majors that may be related to each occupation.
5. Seek additional counsel.
 - Talk to the school’s admissions office or career guidance counselor.
 - Talk to seniors from that school who are graduating in that major.
 - Interview someone who is working in a career field related to the major in which you are interested. He or she may know schools that are tops in this subject.
 - If you’re already in college, visit/join a campus group that focuses on this career field.
 - Consult the Internet for curricula information at specific schools.
6. The key is to follow a **logical process** when making education decisions.

Method B: Use a broader perspective by investigating major courses of study based on your preferences among the 21 Career Groups. (These are listed on page 4 of this document).

1. Refer to “My Pattern” in your **Action Plan** and select the two Career Groups that interest you most. List the two Career Groups in the left column below.

Career Group	Educational Categories
a. _____	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
b. _____	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

2. Scroll to page 4 of this document. Find the above two Career Groups on the left side of the page and refer to the Education Categories directly to the right of them. Note the Education Categories you would like to explore and key them in the right column above.
3. Scroll to pages 29 and 30 in your *Guide to College Majors* guidebook and find the Education Categories listed above.
4. Determine which of the Curriculum Clusters you would like to explore, and turn to that section of the guidebook. For example, if you selected the Education Category, “Family/Children,” you would find that at the bottom of page 29. You would select those Curriculum Clusters you wanted to explore, e.g., Allied Health (page 53) and Christian Studies (page 32).
5. You would then scroll to page 53, entitled Allied Health, and review all the job-related majors on that page, selecting those you would like to examine in more detail.
Let’s say you chose Exercise Physiology and Occupation Therapy. By reviewing the four information categories for each of these college majors, you would have information to make a general determination if you wanted to examine this major further.
6. Your next step would be to compare the “Activities and Environment” and “Profile for Success” sections of these college majors with the “My Pattern” page of work-related attributes of the **Action Plan** to see if they are compatible.
7. If so, you may want to seek more information on the specific occupations listed. You could use the Career Matching process previously explained in the **Action Plan** and search O*NET.
8. Develop a short list of majors that seem to best match your *pattern* and your dreams.
9. Be sure to seek additional counsel before you make a decision.

Relating Career Groups to the Education Categories

From These

21 Career Groups

Refer to

These

Education Categories

(Listed on pages 29 and 30 in the
Guide to College Majors.)

Adventure		Law/Protective Services	
Animal Care		Animals/Nature/Outdoors	
Artistic		{	
			Design/Creating Arts/Performing
Athletics		Athletics	
Performing/Communication		{	
			Communicating/Writing/English Arts/Performing
Computational/Financial		{	
			Computers/Math Business
Consumer Science		{	
			Food
			Family & Children Personal Care
Counseling		Helping/Counseling	
Education		Education/Teaching	
International		{	
			Business
			Travel Fine Arts
Law & Politics		Law/Protective Services	
Management/Sales		Business	
Mechanical		Mechanical/Technical	
Outdoors/Agriculture		Animals/Nature/Outdoors	
Religious		Religious/Christianity	
Science & Health		{	
			Medical
			Personal Care Science
Security & Enforcement		Law/Protective Services	
Service		{	
			Personal Care
			Business—Business Related Business—Hotel/Restaurant
Technological Sciences		{	
			Design/Creating Mechanical/Technical
Transportation		Business	
Writing		{	
			Communication/Writing/English Arts/Performing