

Choosing a Major Action Plan

Review the actions listed below and put a check in the “My Plan” Column if it is an action you believe would assist you in making your choice of major.

Action	My Plan	Completed
Learn more about yourself, your interests, values, strengths, preferences, and personality type by doing some personal and major/career assessments available at the SBCC Career Center , Room SS 282.		
Eliminate the majors you’re not interested in by completing the “Creating Your Short-List of Possible Transfer Majors” exercise.		
Use College Board’s “Reading Major Profiles” to learn more about the specific subject areas of different majors.		
Find out what career options different majors offer by using the “What Can I Do With This Major?” website		
Take introductory courses in subjects that interest you to learn more about what the major may offer. Introductory courses are general in nature and provide a good overview to what is studied in the major. In addition, many introductory courses fulfill General Education requirements so you can choose GE courses that apply to majors you are considering.		
In the early weeks of a semester, sit in on one or two courses in subjects that interest you to capture the flavor of the subject matter. If one sparks an interest, plan to enroll the next time it is offered.		
Try out introductory courses in subjects that are new to you. You may find an entire field of study you didn’t know existed!		
Find out what the lower-division courses for the major are required for transfer by using Assist (UC & CSU) and the SBCC Articulation website . Look at course descriptions, too. Are these courses interesting to you? Too easy? Too hard?		
Use university catalogs to learn about the required upper-division courses for your major. Read the courses descriptions. Are these courses interesting to you? Too easy? Too hard?		
Talk to professors to learn how they became interested in their field of study. This will help you evaluate a discipline from the perspective of individuals who really understand the content, methodologies, and career opportunities of their chosen field.		
Spend an hour in the SBCC or UCSB Bookstore skimming textbooks required for your major. At the UCSB Bookstore look at the textbooks required for the upper division classes in majors you are considering. Can you see yourself spending time reading them?		
In the first week of class each quarter at UCSB audit one or two meetings of upper division courses in majors you are considering. (Lower division courses are often not a good barometer of a major.) Do the classes sound interesting?		
Talk to other students in the major about what they do and don't like about it. Ask your friends about their majors. Ask about their career interests and what sparked their interest in that specific major.		
Talk to alumni or professionals in fields you are considering.		
Find out what universities have your major by using Eureka .		
Each semester, make an appointment with yourself to review your choices. Make sure you choose the right major for you by reviewing your academic progress including course selection, time to degree and GPA.		