



Career & Life Work Planning

What can I do with my degree? My career? My life? Only you can answer these questions. It all starts by taking time to learn who you are: your strengths, interests, values, and motivations, and by exploring career and life-work options that appear to be the best fit for you.

It is important to understand that **this process is NOT linear**. As you gain new knowledge, skills, and a greater awareness of the opportunities that exist, your preferences may change. You may re-evaluate your choices and consider new opportunities. This is all a part of your personal journey to find a career and life-work that is meaningful and fulfilling.

Use the information and resources in this section to help discover career options that will be the best fit for you.

Career Development Center

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VIDEO RESOURCES

[How to Use the Career Center*](#)

[How to Pick the Right Career*](#)

[How I Found My Career*](#)

*SALT account/ login required

Discover Yourself

Planning a successful career path starts with knowing who you are: your strengths, interests, values, motivations, and personality. How do you discover these things? By asking yourself:

- **What is important to me?**
- **What do I like to do in my free time?**
- **What activities make me lose track of time?**
- **What are the most interesting jobs and careers I can think of?**
- **If I could do anything and money was not object, what would I do?**
- **What skills and activities come naturally to me?**

The Career Development Center offers several assessment surveys to help you gain greater self-awareness. The Career Interest Areas, Interest Profiler, SKILLS, and Work Importance Locator are available online for free through [WOIS/The Career Information System](#) (site key required). Two other assessment instruments are available for a fee through the Evergreen Campus Bookstore.

Campbell Interest & Skills Survey (CISS) - An Interest Inventory: \$12

This assessment measures your interests and perceived skills and relates them to occupational areas for focused academic and career exploration and planning.

Information from your results can help you compare your interests and skills to people in 65 different career fields. Explore the meaning of your assessment results with an experienced career counselor. Results can suggest academic programs and careers for you to investigate.

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI): \$27.95

This assessment identifies your personality preferences and applies the resulting information to your career decision-making. It helps you explore how your personality style and personal design affects your choice of major and potential careers. Although you may already be aware of your personality characteristics, you will find the MBTI can help you understand and make the most of that information if interpreted from an academic/career point of view.

Given this knowledge, you will be better able to explore careers. It profiles your preferred work settings and suggests occupational areas to explore that are compatible with your personality type.

For more information about self-assessment tools, **contact the Career Development Center at 360-867-6193 to schedule an appointment with an experienced Career Counselor.**

Exploring Options

After assessing your interests, values, skills, and motivations, there are many different ways to explore career options that may relate well to you. These include:

- **Career-related books, journals, periodicals, and videos**
- **Informational interviews with alumni and other career professionals**
- **Professional associations, social media and other online resources**
- **Job fairs and other professional networking events**

Evergreen's multidisciplinary programs and self-designed degrees also give you a huge advantage over students at other colleges and universities. Rather than taking required courses for a particular major, you can choose programs that allow you to explore subjects and disciplines of interest to you, and to seek internships and other applied learning opportunities to gain practical experience.

Some helpful online career exploration resources include:

[**WOIS/The Career Information System**](#) (site key required)

[**Occupational Outlook Handbook**](#)

[**O*Net OnLine**](#)

Online job boards are also good places to explore the types of qualifications and experience employers are seeking to fill their particular positions.

For additional assistance, **call the Career Development Center at 360-867-6193 to schedule an appointment with one of our Career Advisors.**

Making a Decision

After you've explored your interests, values, skills and motivations, and how they relate to occupations, it is time to assess your experiences to date, to narrow your career focus, and make a decision. Some critical questions you should ask yourself include:

- **Have I fully considered, to the best of my ability, all of my interests, values, skills, and motivations?**
- **Have I gathered enough information to make an informed and comfortable decision?**
- **How much and what kind of information do I need to make my decision?**
- **What questions do I still have that will help me make my decision?**

It's important to remember that, when it comes to career choice, **decisions are never final. You can, *and probably will*, change your mind** in the future. In fact, you'll probably change your mind often, or be required to adapt to changing workplaces multiple times in your career. But without making an initial decision on a career path to follow, you are unlikely to make much progress.

To learn more about the decision making process, or for assistance in deciding what options might be well suited to you, **call the Career Development Center at 360-867-6193 to schedule an appointment with one of our Career Advisors..**

Taking Action

If you want to get anywhere, you must take action. So, based on your research to date, choose an academic and career emphasis and begin developing a plan to help you reach your goals. Some questions you might ask yourself include:

- **Do I know what programs would be most relevant to my career goals?**
- **Do I know the skills that are necessary in the fields I have chosen?**
- **How do I gain the necessary skills to be marketable to employers, or the prerequisites to qualify for a specific graduate degree program?**

Embarking on this journey will help you to see and learn more about yourself and what the world has to offer. **While implementing your action plan you'll eventually discover whether or not the decision you made is a good fit. But give yourself some time** before abandoning ship.

Attempting something new is always challenging. Few people succeed on the first try. Learning to be flexible, to adapt to changing environments, and to overcome obstacles, are attributes that are extremely valuable to employers.

For further assistance and encouragement, **call the Career Development Center at 360-867-6193 to schedule an appointment with one of our Career Advisors.**

Evaluate Your Decision

As you gain new experience and knowledge, your view of the world is likely to change. Your experiences may strengthen your confidence in the decision you've made. Or, you may find your preferences changing. That's okay! ***Our careers***, much like ourselves, ***are always a work in progress***. Here are some important factors to remember:

- Career development is a proactive, continuing process—NOT an event
- What you emphasize in college does not pre-determine your entire professional career—there are lots of career paths you will have the opportunity to explore
- While focusing on your college studies you do not have to give up your other areas of interest. Find extracurricular activities to fulfill your other interests, and consider internships that earn academic credit
- Your priorities, interests and skills will shift over time
- Career planning and decision making take time
- When developing your career action plan, keep your end goals in mind—determine what path you may want to pursue whether it is a career, graduate/professional school or volunteer/service after graduation
- ALL of your experiences, whether they are job-related or not, impact your career choices
- Keep an open mind and be open to opportunities that present themselves
- No one career could possibly meet ALL of your needs—choose the career option that appears to be the best fit

For help with evaluating your career-related decisions, **call the Career Development Center at 360-867-6193 to schedule an appointment with one of our Career Advisors.**