Your Major Matter$!

You are about to invest several years and a lot of money in preparing for your future. An informed decision makes $en$e! You may earn $3,000,000 or more in your lifetime and spend 1/3 of your life working-research and choose a major that sends you on the right career path!

Use these sites to explore career options that fit your major:

http://career.sdsu.edu/MAJORS/index.htm

http://careers.cua.edu/explore/index.cfm#cim

Class of 2013

97% of MSU Billings BA/BS grads responding to an annual survey found employment within 6-12 months of graduation, or they continued education in graduate or professional schools.

BA/BS (4-yr) Degree:
Average Salary was $30,256/year
50% were employed in Billings
33% were employed elsewhere in MT
17% were employed out of state

City College (2-yr) Degree:
Average Salary was $36,246/year
66% were employed in Billings
20% were employed elsewhere in MT
14% were employed out of state
1 Identify

• What activities do I enjoy during my spare time?
• What activities do I do well? What have I done in the past that makes me especially proud?
• What classes and jobs have I most enjoyed?
• Is this a major field in which I can perform well?
• What do I value? How do my values affect my academic/career interests?
• What are my life circumstances and how might they affect my decision?
• What are my career goals? How do they fit with my values, interests, abilities?
• Why am I considering this major? Is it because it would be easy or offer a high salary? Is it because it has inherent value or fits my interests?

Use online assessments to identify your interests and skills:

Montana Career Info System: http://mtcis.intocareers.org/
O*Net Online: http://online.onetcenter.org/

2 Investigate

• Research occupations to find the occupational outlook/demand and salary projections for various careers.
• Think about your dream job and conduct information interviews to learn about that profession.
• Volunteer in the field to experience the responsibilities of the profession.
• Talk with alumni about their choices; visit professors; read professional literature.
• Visit Career Services to meet with a Career Coach who can help you evaluate the information you have collected and guide you through the decision-making process.

3 Implement

• Review majors available at MSU Billings; create a list that matches your values, interests, and abilities.
• Try courses in the majors you are considering.
• Get hands-on experience in an internship that complements your academic choice.
• Work part-time in a field related to your potential major.
• Attend Career Services events such as the Career Fitness Fair, TechExpo, Teacher Recruitment Interviews, and meet employers informally at “Ask-an-Executive” every Wednesday.
• Declare your major and meet with your Academic Advisor to develop your plan of study.

RESEARCH OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK AND SALARY PROJECTIONS

MSU Billings Grad Data: www.msubillings.edu/careers
Montana Dept of Labor and Industry: http://ourfactsyourfuture.mt.gov
America’s Career InfoNet: www.acinet.org

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