**CAREER 501 MAJOR & INDUSTRY EXPLORATION**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN**

**CHOOSING A MAJOR & CAREER EXPLORATION**

**TOPIC 1**

**Choosing a Major- Career Exploration**

Choosing a major can be stressful with so many choices. There are 2 concrete steps that you can take to simplify the process:

1. Know what employers and graduate/professional schools care about:

* Skills: Many employers are “major agnostic”: they are not looking for a specific major but rather transferable skills
* Academic achievement: major in a field that you are interested in to maximize your performance in that major
* Experience: Gain experience through internships, student groups, and class projects to show employers that you have used your skills successfu[l.](https://www.northwestern.edu/careers/explore-careers/choosing-a-major/assets/nca-majors-sort.pdf)

1. Use the following ideas/resources to gather information about majors:

**Research Careers by Major**

* [Take a close look at the Paths4Life Career Library for Majors and Industry information](https://www.northwestern.edu/careers/explore-careers/paths/index.html)
* Go to LinkedIn

**Explore Major Requirements**

* Can you finish in 4 years?
* Consider what else you want to accomplish, e.g. [study abroad](https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/), [fellowships](https://www.northwestern.edu/fellowships/), etc.
* Read through course descriptions
* Do enough courses interest you enough to commit?

**"Sample" Majors**

* Take a class
* Most majors have classes available for non-majors
* Talk with academic advisors and upperclassmen
* Non-majors can speak to academic majors from different schools

**TOPIC 1**

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 1**

Go to the Paths4life Library OR **REQUEST from the Dean** a selection of 2-3 Majors and research the industries positions, skills needed and explain why each is interesting to you or no longer interesting to you.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 2**

Utilizing the Paths4life Library OR **REQUEST from the Dean** access to what information is most helpful based on your professional desires shown on the **Industries** documents. What would you like to know more about?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 3 – SET UP CALL WITH THE DEAN**

**Please have your questions and assignments available to discuss in a 15-30 minute block.**