

HELPING STUDENTS TO SET GOALS FOR TRANSFER BY: USING A PROCESS TO EXPLORE MAJORS, CAREERS AND SCHOOLS

MAJOR 2 CAREER exploration is run through the Advising Center with Kathleen Maisto (academic, career and transfer advising) and student peer advisor, Marina Agapov as facilitators.

By using a 3-step process to actively explore major to career options, students can hope to choose a major and school that 'fits' their **personal profile** before they transfer.

Students arrange to meet at their convenience

In **Step 1**, students work independently with the advisors to **build the personal profile 4 criteria to work satisfaction.**

We begin by helping the student *draw out* their varied (1) **interests** as expressed through a lifetime of experiences. This examination is meant to help the student discover **common themes** that reappear throughout their life interests and how mixing and matching these interest can open up a variety of career paths tailored to these interests . *A journal is used to capture and examine student interests.*

Using a variety of assessments in another session, the student will discover how their (2) **preferred skills**, (3) **values** and (4) **personal style** are reflected in their interests, as well as recognizing the **connection** between their interests and preferred skills, personal style of doing things, and the values that guide their interests.

Step 2 then takes the student's **personal profile summary of work satisfaction criteria** and uses it to **generate** a variety of **career paths** that fit this profile, as well as to generate possible majors to explore that support the career paths, and then further, the schools that offer the majors.

Students join with other students in this Step in generating options

To help students generate more major/career options and schools, students receive guidance using MASSCIS www.masscis.intocareers.org a career information delivery system, that provides information on majors and schools; the occupations majors lead to; self-assessments; portfolio development; job search strategies and techniques, and much more.

In **Step 3** students work one-on-one with advisors to connect with professionals in their fields of interest. This process gives students an inside look at different work environments and the professionals who do the work.

Networking and Informational Interviewing are the skills students will learn for this step

So, this is the Process!

We invite students who need to answer the question, "what will my major be and where can it lead?", to join the Advising Center Advisors and fellow students in this quest

At GCC no one needs to grapple with this decision alone.