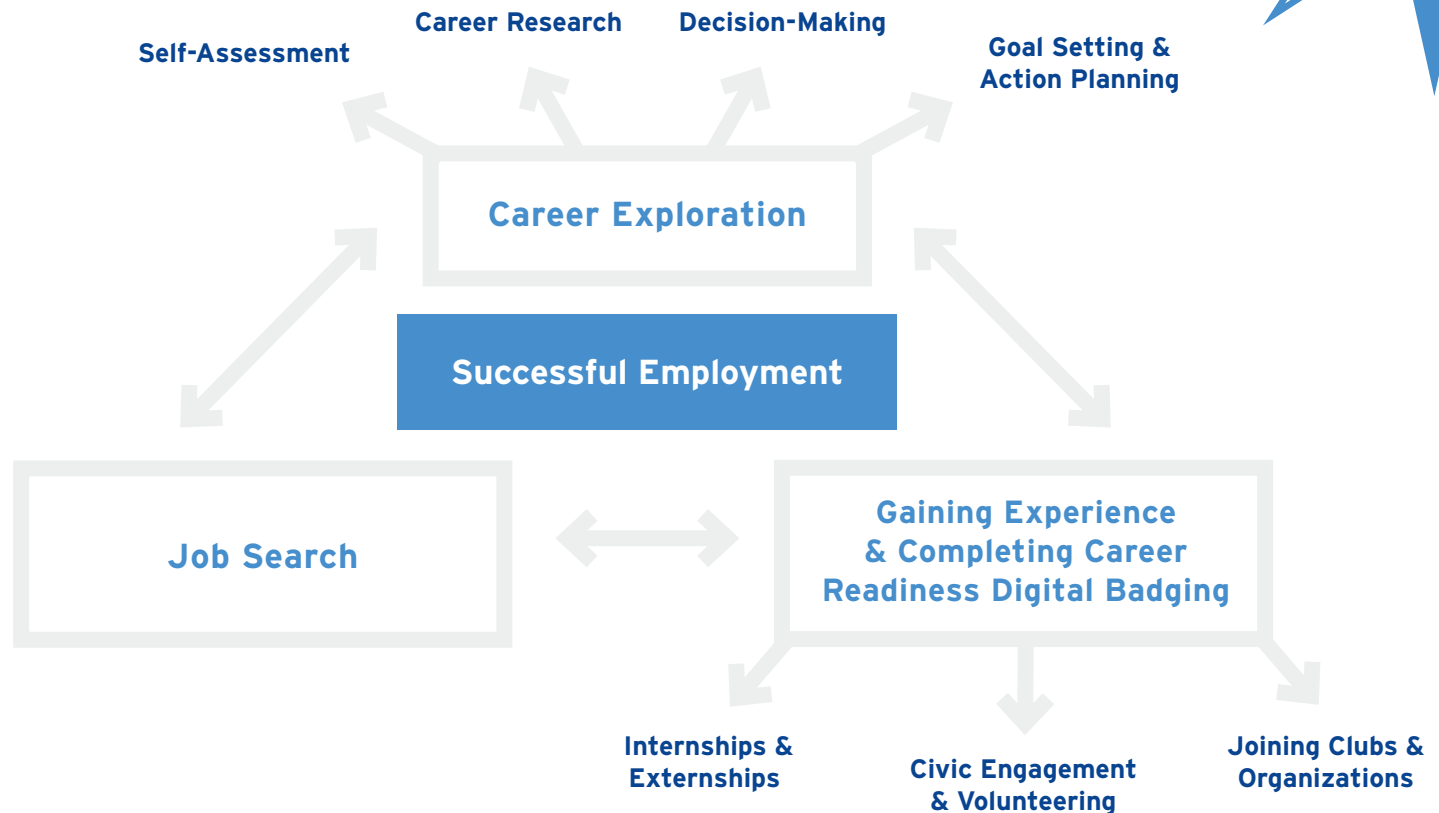


Major & Career Exploration

AT A GLANCE

MORAVIAN
UNIVERSITY

Center for Career
& Civic Engagement



Are You Uncertain About Your Major or Career?

Deciding on an academic major or choosing among career options can be **one of the most challenging decisions you will make**. We encourage you to begin thinking about these decisions early in your college career, and consult with your Career Development Strategist. It's okay to be uncertain - many students change their major at least once, and we are here to help you find the best fit and path for you! Satisfying academic and career decisions result from a process that takes time and proactive effort.

Getting Started with Declaring or Changing a Major

Make an appointment with your Career Development Strategist:

- Explore interests, skills, work values, and goals.
- Talk about careers connected with a major or minor.
- Combine your interests with real-life internships or volunteer experiences.
- Discuss scheduling and timeline for completing a major.
- Ask questions about units, transfer credits or academic requirements.
- Discuss ways in which to engage in dialogue around declaring or changing a major with your academic advising team.

4 Steps to Successful Major and Career Exploration

STEP 1: Self-Assessment

- Self-assessment is about doing a realistic appraisal of yourself and is the starting point for career planning. During this step you will need to:
 - Identify your interests, skills, values, and personality type.
 - Determine how these important factors influence your career decision and satisfaction.
- Assessments and inventories can help you learn more about yourself. Consider talking to your Career Development Strategist about our FREE assessments for Moravian Students to help you through the process.

Not sure where to start?

Try the O*NET Interest Profiler to identify your top interests and connect them to different occupations, fields, or careers.



[Scan to Learn More](#)

Schedule an appointment with your Career Development Strategist on Handshake moravian.joinhandshake.com/edu to discuss your assessment results and begin connecting them to potential majors or career paths!

STEP 2: Career Research

- **Join Student Organizations and Clubs:** Engage in student organizations and clubs related to your career interests. These groups often provide networking opportunities, industry insights, and practical experiences that can enhance your resume and help you make informed career decisions.
- Visiting the Center for Career and Civic Engagement to learn more about resources and support available to you as well as faculty in the academic departments of the major(s) and related careers you are contemplating.
- Reviewing resources that provide information on common career areas, typical employers, responsibilities, work environment, education/qualifications, job outlook, and more. The following are a few great resources to get you started:
 - What can I do with this major?
 - Occupational Outlook Handbook from the Bureau of Labor Statistics
 - O*NET
 - Hot Careers in the Lehigh Valley Dashboard
- Enrolling in INTR-275 "Personal and Professional Development" in the fall or spring semester.
- **Network and Informational Interviews:** Connect with professionals in fields of interest through networking events, alumni associations, or LinkedIn. Conduct informational interviews to gain insights into their career paths, day-to-day responsibilities, and advice for entering the field.
- **Attend Career Fairs and Workshops:** Participate in career fairs and workshops hosted by the Center or local organizations. These events provide opportunities to meet potential employers, learn about different industries, and develop essential skills.

STEP 3: Decision-Making

- **Assess Your Interests and Skills:** Reflect on the information gathered during your career exploration. Identify which careers align best with your interests, skills, and values, and consider how well they fit with your long-term goals and personal preferences.
- **Evaluate Pros and Cons:** Make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of each potential career path. Consider factors such as job stability, salary potential, work-life balance, growth opportunities, and geographic location.
- **Seek Advice and Mentorship:** Discuss your options with trusted advisors, mentors, professors, and career counselors. They can provide valuable perspectives, share personal experiences, and offer guidance on making informed decisions.
- **Gain Practical Experience:** Before making a final decision, try to gain practical experience in your top career choices through internships, part-time jobs, or volunteer work. This hands-on experience can help you better understand the realities of the job and confirm whether it is the right fit for you.

STEP 4: Goal Setting and Action Plans

- Define your career goal(s) and set a realistic action plan with steps and deadlines to meet your goal(s). **Tip: Use S.M.A.R.T. Goal format (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound).**
- Declare a major and make the most of course projects and assignments.
- Continue to talk to people in your field of choice (great way to network).
- Set up an externship or one day job shadow with someone currently in your field. Externships give you some experience to make yourself competitive in the job market. Connect with your Career Development Strategist to help with growing your network and finding opportunities.