

# Just a Word About Decision Making

*Skill in Decision-Making can be a great help in a variety of situations. For instance, have you been wondering . . .*

- What is going to be my major?
- How Important is school to me right now?
- What are really my goals in life?
- What profession should I choose?
- What will a college degree do for me?



**1. Recognize and define the decision to be made.** (e.g., I need to decide on a major within about one or two years.)

**2. Gather all available information.** (e.g., Read catalog, take exploratory class, take interest and ability tests, go to the Career Information Center, and talk over the data with an advisor.)

**3. Develop a list of alternatives.** (e.g., My major will probably be from the Social Sciences. The top three are political science, sociology, and anthropology.)

**4. Assess the risks and count the costs.** (e.g., Political Science would take one extra quarter. Sociology requires statistics. Anthropology has the fewest job prospects.)

**5. Make an initial decision.** (e.g., Political Science is really where I have the most interest.)

**6. Develop and then implement a plan.** (e.g., I have planned the schedule of classes for each quarter, and can finish by June of 1982.)

**7. Evaluate the success of your plan.** (e.g., It has now been two quarters since I made the decision. I really enjoy the classes, and have applied for an internship with the legislature.)

**8. Proceed with the plan, or re-evaluate.** (e.g., I will proceed with my plan. I already have some prospects after graduation.)



*Whether you have a question similar to these, or one entirely different, there are some basic steps which can help you in reaching a difficult decision. Consider these suggested steps in your situation. We have also given, in parentheses, an example of each step for a student making a decision regarding a major.*