

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.