EXPLORING MAJORS

College is a time to explore. Most students don’t have a major or a clear career path in mind when they enter college and many will change their plans during the course of their college career. Almost every career field includes individuals who majored in a range of academic subjects so there may be several paths to a given career. Your goal should be to choose a major you enjoy and can do well in, and complement your classroom studies with experiences on and off campus that allow you to develop the practical skills of collaboration, problem solving, research, creativity, and persistence that are valued by employers in all fields.

NARROWING YOUR INTERESTS

Self-assessment is critical in determining the major and the career field in which you will be most comfortable. Identifying your interests, values, and skills will help you narrow down your options and focus on a goal. To do this:

- Talk with your LEEP Center Adviser.
- Complete an interest inventory at Career Services designed to help you clarify your interests and how they correspond to various career paths.

EXPLORING CAREER OPTIONS

To learn about career options that fit with your interests and values, take a look at resources on the Career Services website: (http://www.clarku.edu/offices/career/resources/careers.cfm)

- **Spotlight on Careers**: an excellent resource for students interested in working in a variety of liberal arts career fields. Use log-in: guest01 and password: summertime.
- **What Can I Do with This Major**: a list of Clark majors, related fields, and alumni career paths.
- **Clark Recruiter**: Career Services’ database of jobs, internships, volunteer opportunities, and employers.

Other Resources:
- **O*Net**: [http://online.onetcenter.org/](http://online.onetcenter.org/) allows you to search for job titles by industry or skills required.
- **Networking**: speak with people within your network of family and friends about their career paths.

REVIEWING ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Read through the major requirements listed on each department’s webpage to see if the courses interest you. A degree planner for each major is available in the Academic Catalog: [http://catalog.clarku.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=759](http://catalog.clarku.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=759)

Take at least one course in the major department that you are interested in before declaring your major.

Talk to your adviser and/or a faculty member in the department you are considering. Develop a potential academic plan for that major. Students already enrolled in the major can also be a great source of information on the demands of the department (workload, competition) and the teaching styles of particular faculty. Meet with your LEEP Adviser to talk through your options.

Be sure to consider activities like Study Abroad and internships for academic credit when laying out your academic plan.
DECLARING YOUR MAJOR

You must declare your major by the end of your sophomore year or you will not be allowed to register for subsequent semesters or make any adjustment to your registration.

Declaring your major involves two steps:

Step 1: Obtain a Major Declaration Form. You may download the form at http://www.clarku.edu/offices/registrar/forms/declaration-form.pdf or pick one up at the Academic Advising office in the LEEP Center.

Contact your intended major department to obtain the signature of the Department Chair (or the Chair’s designee) admitting you into the major.

You are required to have a faculty adviser in your chosen department. Any full-time faculty member from your major department may be your adviser. If you do not have an adviser in mind, one can be assigned to you by the department. The Chair or the Chair’s designee will identify your major adviser on the Major Declaration Form.

Step 2: Submit the completed Major Declaration Form to the Registrar’s Office.