EXERCISES FOR CHOOSING A MAJOR/CAREER

- **Career Fantasies**
  List every career you have ever imagined, especially those from high school. Don’t worry at this point whether your dream is “practical” – just write it down.

- **People You Admire**
  List 10-20 (or more) people whom you admire. What are/were their careers?

- **Issues**
  List at least 5 social or other issues of interest/concern to you. What sort of jobs/careers would let you address these concerns?

- **The $10,000,000 Prize**
  If you won $10,000,000, what would you do in the first five years? What careers would let you do some of these things?

- **What’s it Worth to You?**
  List all the things you would pay to learn or to be able to do. What careers would let you learn and do some of these things?

- **Where Are the Jobs?**
  List every single industry/employer you know. Think about your family’s jobs, places you’ve lived, what your neighbors, friends’ parents, and other acquaintances do.

- **But I’ve Always Wanted…**
  If there is a career you’ve always wanted to pursue, explore that world. Shadow someone in that field for a day or more, interview him or her about what the job is like, do an internship in that field, have a summer job working for someone in that field.

**Points to Remember:**

- If the choice is between something you are “good at” v. something you enjoy doing, go for the thing you enjoy! Pursuing your passion will bring you to the work which is right for you.

- Remember the difference between vocation and avocation. Your passion does not have to be your career. A pediatrician with a passion for orchestral music may play violin in a local symphony; a banker may spend her weekends designing her own garden or that of a friend.

- Remember that something you enjoy may be one aspect of your job rather than the whole. You may be a fine writer and enjoy using your writing skills in your work, but your job may not require you to write all day, every day.