

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.