Checklist for Choosing a Major

Go down the list and check off each task as you complete them. portion on your journey towards finding a major. Take time to reflect on your ideas and thoughts as you go through each step. Everyone is different and you will find your way in the time that is right for you.

Step I: Become familiar with resources and services that are available to help you
- Schedule an initial appointment with an academic advisor, (213) 740-2534.
- Visit USC’s Career Planning Services and check out the Career Resource Library at the Career Planning and Placement Center, STU 110, http://careers.usc.edu
- If interested, visit the Pre-Health Professions and Pre-Law information webpages at www.usc.edu/pre-health or www.usc.edu/pre-law.

Step II: Develop a list of all the academic majors and career fields in which you have an interest.
- Meet with a USC Career Counselor – call (213) 740-9111
- Take a COPs or other interest test at the Career Planning and Placement Center
- Read about majors in which you know you have a potential interest in the University Catalogue
- Get more help from your academic advisor – schedule a follow-up appointment
- Seek input from your parents, brothers and sisters, friends, teachers, faculty, etc.

Step III: Gather preliminary information about the majors and careers on your exploration list
- Learn about degree requirements for these majors by meeting with academic advisors of those departments and reading the USC catalogue (also available online at www.usc.edu/catalogue)
- Meet with professors who teach in these majors to learn more about the curriculum, courses in the major, and what you can do with each major after graduation

Step IV: Evaluate your alternative majors and careers and narrow your choices to 3-4 majors
- Eliminate any majors you have already been able to determine you have no further interest in considering as a result of some information in your preliminary research
- For each major and career field, review the information you have gathered in your research and write every plus and every minus
Get help from your academic advisor at the Office of College Advising

Make your decision! Based on the results of the evaluation methods and techniques you have used, decide which majors you will explore further. You should narrow your choices to 3-4 majors at this point...no more than 6

Step V: Conduct additional research and gather more detailed information about these 3-4 majors

- Schedule follow-up meetings with your academic advisor
- Review degree requirements for these majors in the catalogue or with an academic advisor
- Read course descriptions in the USC Catalogue, www.usc.edu/catalogue and/or the academic department websites for required major courses
- Meet with the departmental advisors for these specific majors
- Meet with professors who teach in these majors for additional information about courses and the field of study
- Conduct additional research at the Career Resource Library
- Attend on-campus fairs and expos that are related to the majors on your “narrowed down” list

Step VI: Evaluate the alternative majors on your “narrowed down” list

- Compile a list of pluses and minuses for these potential majors
- Review your lists

Step VII: Choose your major and minors!

- Based on your evaluation of the majors on your “narrowed down” list, decide which one major you will choose.
- Consider adding a minor or minors in the fields of study for the other majors on your list and decide which minor(s) you want to complete in addition to your major.
- See your academic advisor for help in determining requirements and the feasibility of these options.
- Then, with your academic advisor, plan your steps toward admission to the appropriate degree-granting school you have chosen and plan your next registration for this major
- Submit an application or Change of Major form to the major department of your interest