

Beginning Career Exploration with Focus2

Instructions

Focus2 is a web based career exploration tool that will help get you started in your career exploration process – particularly if you are unsure of your pathway – because it will help you to narrow your search to the things most important to you. Completing the three Inventories described in #2-4 below will take you about 30 minutes.

Simply follow these steps:

1. Set up your account [here](#). The Access Code is: MDC-Sharks.
2. Begin with *My Career Planning Readiness*. This inventory will give you a sense of how far along you actually are in the career exploration process and will suggest some Next Steps.
3. The inventory of *My Academic Strengths* will quantify some academic information about yourself that you might already know, or suspect, about yourself. What do you do well in? Not so well in? What subjects are new to you ?
4. The *Self Assessment* section will collect some information about what you are interested in, what you value, your personality, how you spend leisure time, and what skills you have at this time. You will be able to see which occupations combine these characteristics.
5. You can explore occupations' job tasks, working conditions, job outlook, academic and work experience entry level requirements, earnings, and related information.
6. Finally, you can see which MDC programs connect to these careers.
7. Save your results and answer each of the questions below based on your results and career research.
 - a. What were your top two or three career choices?
 - b. What appealed to you most about the occupation(s) you chose?
 - c. What career clusters or educational track matched your interests? (i.e. health, education, business, etc.)
 - d. What level of education and area of study must you obtain before working in this occupation? (i.e. Associate in Arts, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, etc.)
 - e. Is it necessary to transfer out of MDC? Where are the schools you are considering to transfer to?
 - f. What are some of the job duties described your top occupation?
 - g. Does this occupation correspond to your values or does it conflict with your values? (i.e., family life, work-life balance, financial, traveling, etc.)

- h. What are some other related careers in this field that interest you?
 - i. Calculate the debt you will have by the time you finish the entire program of study in order to begin your chosen profession. Here are some resources to help you see how much student debt is too much:
 - [Student Debt Relief's "How Much Student Debt Is Too Much?"](#)
 - [USA Today / College – How Much Student Debt Is Too Much?](#)
 - [Credit.com – "How Much Student Debt Is Too Much?"](#)
 - j. What are the wages for someone entering this occupation? Use [CareerOnestop](#) to find comparative earnings.
 - in South Florida?
 - In another State that you might move to ?
8. Discuss your findings with your MDC Pre-College Adviser