

# PARALLEL PATHWAY PLANNING

Many individuals take different routes to their career goals. Taking a new path can help you stand out and offer something unique to your field. This exercise aims to help you determine and assess parallel pathways available to help you attain your future career goals.

## 1 Select a Career Goal

Identify a specific career goal that aligns with your interests and skills.

## 2 Outline the Traditional Path

Research and outline the typical or traditional major pathway to achieving this career goal.

## 3 Consider Parallel Pathways

Explore other major pathways that can also lead to the same career goals.  
*Note: Refer to the Parallel Pathways handout for additional ideas.*

## 4 Evaluate Unique Features of the Parallel Pathways

Assess the distinctive advantages of each parallel pathway and develop an approach to effectively highlight these unique features towards your future career.

## 5 Plan Career Development Steps

Outline specific steps you will take to achieve your career goal, integrating insights from both traditional and parallel major pathways.

Please consider reviewing this activity with your academic advisor

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## Student Major Exploration Example

### 1 Select a Career Goal

Olivia is passionate about starting her own company in the future, aiming to become an entrepreneur in the tech industry.

### 2 Outline the Traditional Path

The traditional or typical path for Olivia involves obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship + Innovation.

### 3 Consider Parallel Pathways

Exploring alternative pathways, Olivia considers majoring in Behavioral Economics and Psychology as a parallel option. This major offers a solid foundation in economic principles while emphasizing the understanding of psychological factors influencing economic decisions. It provides a holistic view of market and consumer behavior, which is crucial for understanding business environments and making informed strategic decisions as an entrepreneur. To gain practical experience, Olivia can pursue internships at startups and join entrepreneurship clubs on campus.

### 4 Evaluate Unique Features of the Parallel Pathways

Olivia evaluates the unique features of the Behavioral Economics and Psychology major for their entrepreneurial aspirations:

- Quantitative and Analytical Skills
- Economic Theory, Policy Understanding, and Behavioral Insights
- Interdisciplinary Approach: Economics & Psychology

### 5 Plan Career Development Steps

Olivia outlines specific steps to achieve her goal:

- Pursue a major in Behavioral Economics and Psychology with a possible minor in Entrepreneurship
- Gain entrepreneurial experience through internships
- Build a strong network with the Entrepreneur community, including mentors, investors, and fellow entrepreneurs, to gain support and mentorship