

EXPLORATORY QUESTIONS

An important part of exploring major options is gathering information and learning more about each program you are considering. Some ways to collect information include meeting with department advisors, talking with students declared in the major, and connecting with alumni, faculty, and other professionals in the field.

Review the [USC Career Center's guidance on conducting informational interviews](#) and use the Exploratory questions below for examples of the types of questions you may consider asking each group.

For additional major exploration support, review the [AEA Major Discovery Activity](#).

QUESTIONS FOR ADVISORS

- What careers do students in this major typically pursue?
- What classes will I be completing in this major?
- What would I learn about when studying this major?
- Are there any organizations, events, or opportunities available for me to explore this major further?
- What steps should I take to work towards this major?
- What resources are available to help students succeed in this major?
- My Own Question: _____
- My Own Question: _____

QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS DECLARED IN THE MAJOR

- How has your experience been in this major?
- What interests you most about this major?
- What are the classes like for this major?
- What have you learned about in this program?
- Is your current major associated with your career goals?
- What is one thing I should know about this major?
- What is something you wish you knew about this major before declaring?
- What has been the most rewarding part of this major?
- My Own Question: _____
- My Own Question: _____

QUESTIONS FOR ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD

- Can you share about what a typical day in your role entails?
- What skills are required for your position?
- Why did you decide to enter this industry/field?
- Can you share about your career path and what led you to your current position?
- What steps can I take now to have a similar career in the future?
- Do you have any advice for someone who wants to enter this industry?
- What parts of your role do you find the most challenging?
- What parts of your role do you find exciting?
- Did your undergraduate major influence your current position?
- What surprised you the most about your role and/or industry?
- Do you have any professional publications or professional development opportunities that you would recommend for a student interested in this field?
- My Own Question: _____
- My Own Question: _____