

What do You Enjoy Studying?

Think as specifically as you can when answering the following questions. The more specific you get, the more information you have to contemplate the beginnings of your major path.

- What were your favorite subjects during elementary school? Middle school? High school?
- What was it that you enjoyed about those subjects? The teacher? The in-class work? The homework? The subjects?
- What subjects, activities and challenges come naturally to you?
- Do you enjoy discussing topics of study? Or do you enjoy studying privately?
- Do you like to analyze ideas? Or do you prefer concrete, undisputable results?
- Do you like to write? Speak? Play music? Or do you prefer working with numbers and data?
- Thinking about past accomplishments, what basic skills do you think you possess?
- What character qualities do you possess? What are your unique gifts?
- Think of issues that are facing the world today. What issues are you most compelled by?
- Make a list of past great experiences in your life – they can be about anything! Pick three that stand out and write down the specific ingredients that made those experiences so valuable to you.
- What do you like to do outside of school? How do you spend your free time?

Now, organize the information you gathered from the questions above into a personal statement. For example, " I love working with people on teams. I enjoy working out concrete problems on my own and coming together with others to discuss the results. I really enjoy lab-work because you can see the results of your work. I also enjoy quiet time on my own doing jigsaw puzzles and brainteasers. I am serious, detail-oriented and care about the environment, specifically endangered species..."

While this may not seem to point towards a specific major, it will put you in the right mind to talk with faculty, advisors, friends and family who can come up with suggestions for classes to take around your interests and traits. For example, the person in the above example might enjoy taking a class on ecology, biology, earth sciences or zoology. Taking classes and *continually reflecting* on your skills, likes and dislikes will help you to further identify your major path of study.