EXPLORING OCCUPATIONS

This short guide provides general resources that jump start the self-exploration and research process using The Career Center's electronic and print resources.

ONLINE RESOURCES

All resources outlined below can be retrieved through The Career Center (TCC) website at no charge. Be sure to log into the TCC website using your Net ID and password. Some websites require registration and/or the use of pre-identified login credentials. Such websites are indicated by an asterisk (*) with a link to retrieving this information.

- **Self-exploration and assessment tools:** Do you know what your strengths and talents are? These tools help you discover and acknowledge the talents and skills you have to offer your future employer. If you don't know where your skills lie or if you are looking for a better way to articulate them, EPICS and CIS will guide you through.
  - Exploring Pathways in Career Success (EPICS): epics.illinois.edu
    - *New registration required after logging into TCC with your NetId
  - Career Information System (CIS) – Values Work Importance Calculator: ilworkinfo.com/icrn.htm
    - *User Name and Password located at: careercenter.illinois.edu/instructable/exploring-careers-and-majors
- **Relating majors to careers:** Are you wondering where your major can take you? No worries! The TCC website provides extensive information about all majors at Illinois. In addition, TCC has gathered useful information through our partners. Below is an extremely useful site created by the Division of General Studies where you can find information about different majors here at Illinois.
  - dgs.illinois.edu/major-handbook

IN DEPTH AUTHORITATIVE RESOURCES

Authoritative resources are those that are the most respected and reliable. Both resources below are published by the U.S. Federal Government and deliver extensive information about job descriptions, average salaries, working conditions, and growth projections.

- Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), 2010/11 edition: bls.gov/ooh

SALARY INFORMATION AND CALCULATORS

As you create a list of the careers that most interest you, knowing the average salaries for each occupation (along with other factors) can play a deciding role. Glassdoor.com is a great resource to research salaries for a variety of positions.

- glassdoor.com/Salaries/index.htm

PRINT RESOURCES

Given the convenience that online searching provides, many times great resources are not available in digital form. The materials available at the TCC resource center library are at your full disposal to utilize on-site. Links to the online database and selected examples of the types of books you can find at TCC are described below. Print titles can be searched on the TCC resource center online database here: careercenter.illinois.edu/service/career-center-resource-library

- **New Guide for Occupational Exploration: Linking Interests, Learning, and Careers (4th Edition)**
    - Author: Farr, Michael and Shatkin, Laurence
    - ISBN: 1-59357-180-1
    - Call Number: HF5383.5.U5F37
    - "The New Guide for Occupational Exploration is the most useful resource for matching interests to both job and learning options. Readers can drill down to their most appealing job groups through questions that provide a feel for the work and whether it will interest them. More than 900 job descriptions from the U.S. Department of Labor's O*NET (Occupational Information Network) database emphasize skills needed, related courses, education required, earnings, growth, and much more, all for helpful career-path planning" (jist.com).
- **Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance (15th Edition)**
    - Author: Ferguson's
    - ISBN: 978-0-8160-8313-8
    - Call Number: HF5381.E52 (VOL. I – V)
    - "Designed to hold your attention and relay information effectively, this 5-volume set (more than 4,100 pages!) is the ideal starting place for career research. Each article in this edition offers expanded career information, sidebars, and graphic icons calling out the top 10 careers that experts predict will add the greatest number of positions through the year 2018. Over 2,500 websites are listed in the career articles and refer users to professional associations, government agencies, and other organizations. And more than 100 on-the-job interviews, ranging from worker profiles to daily routines to workers' comments about their occupation, are also included in major career articles" (impactpublications.com).
- **Top 100 computer and technical careers: Your Complete Guidebook to Major Jobs in Many Fields at all Training Levels**
    - ISBN: 978-1593573201
    - Call Number: QA76.25.F37 2009