

Careers 202 – For Parents of Second-Year Students

Generally, during the second year of college, a student begins to explore majors and career options more seriously. Many colleges and universities require that new students take a broad range of subjects to promote this exploration.

What You Can Do to Help

- Don't insist upon a decision about a major or possible career choice immediately. If you sense that your child's indecision is a barrier to positive progress, urge that he or she look for assistance in the career center. Students often have difficulty making a "final" choice because they fear they may make a wrong choice and close off options
- Suggest that your son or daughter talk with faculty and career advisors about potential choices
- Direct your child to family, friends, or colleagues who are in fields in which he or she has an interest. "Informational Interviewing" with people can be extremely helpful at this stage
- Steer your child toward a source of information. Many campuses have a career consultant or mentoring network of alumni in various career fields who are willing to share information with students about their careers. These resources are invaluable both in this exploratory stage and later as students are seeking internships and jobs