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# Career conversations: High school students, career readiness and admissions

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# Agenda

## What we'll cover:

- Career conversations with high school students
- Using online tools to help students explore interests and majors
- Enhancing career readiness with a UC degree
- Resources

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# Career conversations

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## WHAT ARE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CONVERSATIONS?

- Individual, strength-based discussions
- Allow high school students to explore potential career interests
- Help students determine next steps in education



## Career conversation starters

### **A FEW EXAMPLES INCLUDE:**

- What are your short-term and long-term goals?
- Do you already have a career in mind, and, if so, what interests you about that career?
- What do you see yourself accomplishing over the next five years? Does it relate to your intended career and, if so, how?
- What type of post-secondary education are you considering (two-year college, four-year college, certificate/training program, etc.), and will that help you reach your short-term, long-term or career goals?

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## **What can students' accomplish with a UC degree?**

- UC offers a research based approach to teaching students.
- UC helps students build credibility in the research field.
- Allows students to apply their degree/education in many career fields.

### How can students build insight into careers before applying to University of California?

- Encourage students to take part in informational interviews with professionals during career/college fair days to build insight.
- Informational interviews are opportunities for students to ask open-ended questions to professionals in career fields they are interested in.

## Informational interviews

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### **A FEW EXAMPLES INCLUDE:**

- What does a typical day look like for you?
- Thinking about your college career, if you could do it again, would you choose the same path for yourself? Why? What would you change?
- How did you become interested in this career field?

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# Online tools for career exploration

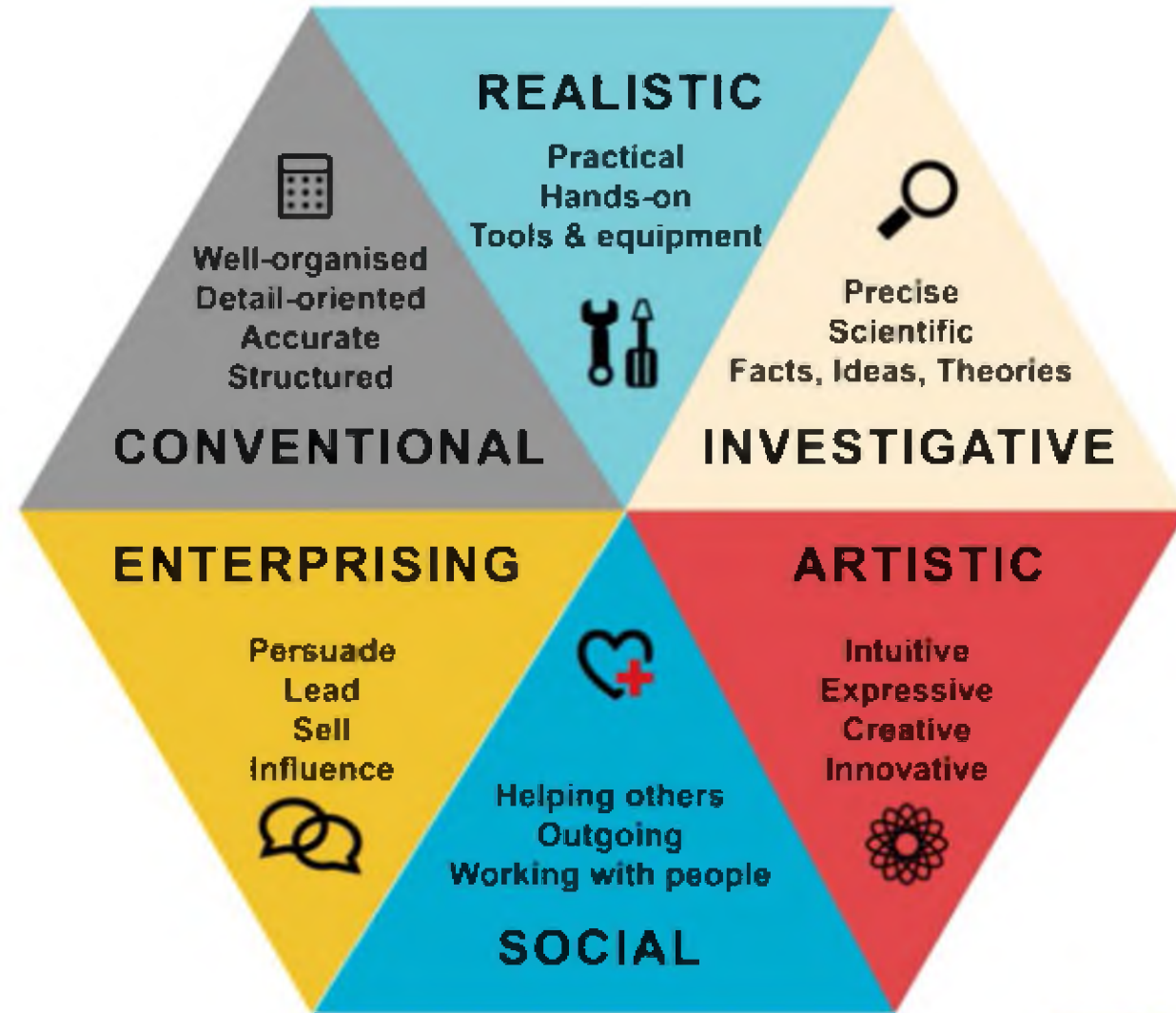
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## HOLLAND RIASEC CODES

- Six categories/personality types
- Can help students assess their interests
- Leads to further exploration of compatible majors and careers



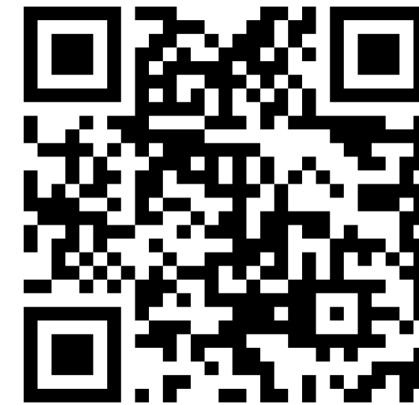
Skills Future, "So, what is the RIASEC?". August 6, 2024.  
Government of Singapore.

# O\*NET toolkit

MY NEXT MOVE



- Developed by the National Center for O\* Net Development and by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Career exploration and assessment tools
- Can help students identify career interests



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Developed by the National Center for O\*NET Development, " O\*NET Interest Profiler". May 1st. 2024. Sponsored by the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

# How can UC majors assist with career exploration

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# Majors

**UC offers over 170 academic disciplines, and over 870 degree programs. Students are encouraged to choose majors that best fit their career interests and academic goals.**

Examples of majors across the UC system:

- Bioengineering
- Psychology
- Public Affairs
- Computer Science
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Physics
- Human Biology
- Undeclared\*
- **And more!**

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## Majors available at UC

**UC campuses have resources in place for students and counselors to explore majors.**

**Exploring the majors website for each University of California campus with students can be beneficial because the student is able to read about the following:**

- Information about intended majors and career opportunities.
- Insight on majors they haven't considered.
- Information on degree content and learning outcomes.



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## Selective majors

### **Some majors can be highly selective across the campuses.**

Remind students of the following:

- Students can choose an alternate major for most campuses when filling out the UC application.
- Students can consult with campus websites and admission staff to learn about additional major options.
- Majors are not always a consideration in admission decisions, depending on the campus and program.
- Their major will not dictate their career.

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## Case study 1

**A student is considering a career in urban and rural development planning. The student applies for a major in Architecture at one campus. They are not admitted to that campus, but they are admitted into another campus for Civil Engineering.**

**Can the student still pursue the same career path with a major in Civil Engineering?**

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## Case study 1

**Yes, the student can still pursue the same career with either major!**

**Both majors have a focus on building infrastructure in a set environment. Some careers may require special licensing which can be obtained through a graduate program or specialized training.**

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## Case study 2

**A student wants to pursue a career in law, and criminal justice. The student is primarily interested in criminology but only one UC campus offers it, however the student is also looking into several majors such as political science, sociology and history at other UC campuses.**

**Are any of these majors better than the other for this career pathway? What are their options?**

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## Case study 2

**The law and criminal justice field is broad, and some careers will require additional education such as pursuing graduate school. The majors do not limit the students to internship opportunities.**

**If a student is majoring in History, Political Science, Sociology, or other majors they will have the same opportunity to participate in the UC Washington DC Program, UC Sacramento, and more!**

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# Additional UC experiences that enhance career readiness

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## What can a UC education offer students?



### **Undergraduate research**

All campuses provide students the opportunity to conduct research and gain hands-on experience in their field.



### **Study abroad**

Students can study abroad and gain a global perspective while experiencing a new environment and culture.



### **Professional opportunities**

Services such as Handshake, job and career fairs, and internship and graduate school workshops are available to help prepare students.

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### OVER \$6 BILLION INVESTED IN RESEARCH

- Research opportunities for undergraduates on each campus
- Not limited to STEM majors
- Can give students hands-on experience in fields that interest them
- Contributes to student's continued career exploration

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## Benefits of undergraduate research

**Regardless of their major, research can help students develop skills in:**

- Critical analysis
- Problem-solving
- Communication
- Understanding and applying research methods

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## Student testimonials

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### Jessica Lopez Lara

**UC Merced Class of 2019, current PhD candidate in UC Santa Barbara's Chemistry PhD program**

Coming from a first-generation background, Jessica was a part of UC LEADS during her undergraduate career at UC Merced where she conducted research in Pharmaceutical Drugs. Jessica always had an interest in going into graduate school, and with her undergraduate research experience, she had an opportunity to further her education at UC Santa Barbara.



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## Student testimonials

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### Bianca Ryans

Undergraduate student at UCLA

Natural Reserve System Field Science Fellow

Bianca was chosen to participate in the Field Science fellowship conducted by the NRS. The fellowship encourages mentoring students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. Through her research, she was able to see how the Woolsey wildfire affected stream biodiversity. Bianca was able to design the entire project.



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## Global experience

### Study abroad

The UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) is one of the various ways students from across the University of California can collaborate through language study, educational trips, internships and research.

**170**

Programs

**40+**

Countries

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## Study abroad testimonial

**Yusuf Akbas**

**UC Berkeley, Molecular and Cell Biology**

**UCEAP Program: Australia**

"My internship at the University of Sydney's Exercise Physiology Department transcended mere academia, offering me an immersive experience that fortified my skills and perspective. This journey, rich in scientific exploration and personal evolution, has solidified my commitment to making meaningful contributions to the field of exercise physiology and beyond."

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## Career-building options

### Professional opportunities

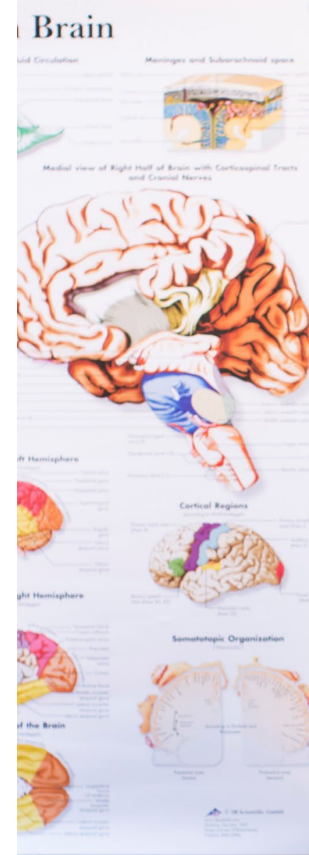
Students at all 9 UC undergraduate campus have access to career resources and services to prepare for their careers after graduation. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Skills & strengths assessments
- Career & internship fairs
- Job posting database
- Resume & interview workshops
- Career/graduate school advising

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## Alumni outcomes

### UC alumni fast facts

- More than **2 million** UC alumni live and work around the world, with 70% working in California.
- Within 2-10 years of graduating, most UC alumni see their earnings **double**.
- UC undergrad alumni in CA earn **\$9,300 more** annually than graduates of other institutions.

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# Resources

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## UC resources for counselors

**UC majors:** [admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/majors](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/majors)

**UC alumni outcomes:** [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/student-success/alumni-outcomes](https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/student-success/alumni-outcomes)

**UC Info Center – Alumni at work:** [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/uc-alumni-work](https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/uc-alumni-work)

**Economic clout of a UC degree (UC Newsroom, June 2024):**

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/economic-clout-uc-degree>

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# Thank you

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