Everyday Research Context For: Taking Classes, Choosing a Major & a Profession

**When you take a class**

Look up the professor (research interests, personal statements) - how they represent themselves is much more important than what others think of them - if you’re taking their class, you’ll have an opinion on that soon enough. This will give their syllabus and class lectures a lot more context.

- Faculty Profiles: faculty.utah.edu
- Departmental Websites: https://www.utah.edu/academics/colleges.php

Look up the college or discipline they’re teaching from. How each discipline works is something inherently part of the character of the instructor as well as what they teach - they’ll have an assumption about a lot of contextual things that won’t be overtly stated. Here’s how to find them (in addition to your other avenues of information):

- Wikipedia for the basic college/department/discipline:
  (i.e. sociology, rhetoric, mass communication, etc.)
- Departmental Websites: https://www.utah.edu/academics/colleges.php

**When you're considering a major or a profession**

*if you choose your own direction and priorities, you're more likely to succeed*

Look up the college or department they're teaching from: they all have advisors that you can make an appointment with to talk over "who chooses this major and why? What are the requirements? What classes will I take in the major?" Etc. etc! They're great!

- Departmental Websites are ok too - but talk with an advisor (their contact info will be listed in the dept. https://www.utah.edu/academics/colleges.php

There are lots of online personality, strengths & aptitude tests that will tell you how to choose a career or field to work in - those are fine, but there are two great ways to narrow down your search:

- **Interview people in that profession** - I used this recently and the person talked enthusiastically with me for two hours.

**Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook:**
https://www.bls.gov/ooh/

  - In each report, especially pay attention to:
    - *How to Become One* (will show typical education requirements)
    - *Similar Occupations* (if you like this job, consider these too…)

**UofU Career Services:** http://careers.utah.edu/

- Look around, but make an appointment to talk over big ideas with them.