



THE NVC NEWSLETTER FOR UNDECLARED MAJORS

CAREER AND TRANSFER SERVICES CENTER HAS MOVED!

You will find us in Room 200 on the second floor of the Cypress Campus Center. Our new telephone number is (210) 486-4126. Stop by the newly renovated CaTS Center which includes more computers, career resources, and an open atmosphere!

Upcoming CaTS Events...

Major Mania
March 18, 2009

Career Expo
March 25, 2009

Both events will be held from **10am-2pm** in the **NVC Cypress Campus Center (Largo Vista Room)** and are a great way to learn about various majors!

MAJOR AND CAREER MYTHS

Most people know their major and career goals when they enter college.

Most college students don't have a clear idea of what to major in or do for a career. This is normal! The CaTS Center provides free **career counseling** to assist you in deciding on a major and career options.

There is a test that can tell me what to do with the rest of my life.

No test exists that can "tell" you what to do with your life. Instead, assessments or "tests" can help you identify your interests, skills, personality and work values. **Focus and Choices Planner Career Assessments** are tools to assist undeclared majors in deciding on a major and career direction.

There is one perfect career for me.

Career satisfaction can be found in many different careers. There are a number of options based on your interests, personality type and abilities. For example if you like helping people in an artistic way you may enjoy being an art teacher or an art therapist.

I need to choose one career for the rest of my life.

It isn't typical any longer to spend a lifetime with one employer. Experts predict people will make an average of three career changes and have seven to 10 jobs in their lifetime.

It's *not* OK to be undecided.

Being undecided is normal. Engaging in exploring options can be extremely positive, leading to making an informed decision. Beginning this process of focused exploration in your first year at NVC is an important first step. **Katrice Woods Bender, Undeclared Student Team Leader**, works specifically with students who are undecided about their major.

SPOTLIGHT ON MAJOR: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice is designed to provide students with a basic foundation in legal studies. Students will gain a broad understanding of the historical and philosophical basis of criminal law as well as the substantive and procedural aspects. For further information on this program visit the NVC College Catalog for degree requirements or see a Student Success Professional in Cypress Campus Center.

Displayed below are some career ideas (with an Associate's degree) and beginning salaries for this major according to the FOCUS 2 Career Assessment.

Bailiff	\$ 24,170
Border Patrol Agent	\$ 35,140
Court Reporter	\$ 29,830
Correction Officer	\$ 27,100
Immigration Inspector	\$ 42,080
Paralegal	\$ 32,470
Police Officer	\$ 35,140

CHOICES PLANNER: CAREER ASSESSMENT

Choices Planner is career guidance and information system, which can help undeclared majors increase their self-awareness, set priorities, and create educational/occupational plans. To create your student user account:

- Go to Career and Transfer Services: www.accd.edu/nvc/students/cats/assessments.htm
- Click on "Choices Planner"
- To create a new account, click on "create a new portfolio"
- Use Site User ID: 1034757
- Use Site Password: studentsuccess

The features of Choices Planner are located under 3 tabs: **Work, Learn, and Your Portfolio**.

WORK

- Learn about your interests, skills, and values by taking assessments.
- Search for occupations by characteristics and/or assessment results by using "Career Finder"
- View two occupations side by side by using the "Compare Careers" feature Search for occupations by "Alphabetical List".
- Learn about occupations by "Career Zones"
- Utilize "Resume Builder", "Job Interview Practice", "Cover Letter Creator", and "Thank You Letter Builder"

LEARN

- Search for "Programs and Majors" by category
- View two schools side by side using the "Compare Schools" feature
- Search for schools by characteristics using "School Finder"
- Search for schools by using an "Alphabetical List"
- Find programs by "Alphabetical List"
- Find schools by "Regions and States"

YOUR PORTFOLIO

Record the information you want to save.

NEXT STEP:

After completing your assessment, the next step is to call (210) 486-4126 to make an appointment with a Career Counselor in the CaTS Center to discuss your results!

