Career Interest Areas

Listed below are six categories of careers and career interests. Below the category names are personality traits of people with these interests, job qualities, and possible careers. **Mark each box next to a word or phrase that matches your interests.** For instance, if you are interested in nature, you would mark that box. **Then, count the number of boxes you marked under each category. Write the score for each category in the blank next to the category name.**

_____ **Realistic**

- Traditional
- Genuine
- Persistent
- Practical
- Building
- Operating equipment or machinery
- Using tools
- Physical activities
- Mechanical activities
- Outdoor activities

- Nature
- Manufacturing firms
- Police
- Military
- Athletics
- Skilled trades
- Technical jobs
- Engineer
- Forester
- Repairing

_____ **Investigative**

- Precise
- Cautious
- Rational
- Complex
- Curious
- Intellectual
- Solve problems through thinking
- Scientific/laboratory work
- Collecting & analyzing data
- Working with numbers & formulas

- Researcher
- Mathematician
- Scientist
- Critical thinking
- Audiologist
- College professor
- Pharmacist
- Dentist
- Veterinarian
- Optometrist

_____ **Artistic**

- Creative
- Independent
- Spontaneous
- Intuitive
- Use imagination
- Expressive
- Musical

- Acting
- Unstructured activities
- Painting
Once you have a sense of the career areas that match your interests, you can find occupations within those areas that you might enjoy. This worksheet is meant to be an introduction to these career areas. If you would like talk to a career counselor to explore the interest areas more completely or if you have additional questions about your future career, please schedule an appointment with a career counselor.

To access all Career Services’ handouts, visit: www.niu.edu/careerservices/handouts.shtml  #F3  04-12