Do Your Research
When choosing a career field, there are resources available to help you make an informed decision.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [bls.gov/ooh/] lets you search for careers based on:
• Number of new jobs predicted
• Education required
• Median income
• Work environment

Reflect on Your Own Needs
What exactly needs to change for your career to meet your needs?

The Career Vision Job Satisfaction Survey [wbs.careervision.org/PerspectiveJobSatisfactionSurvey.aspx] can help you pinpoint the source of your dissatisfaction with your current position and learn how to remedy it. This brief survey asks you to gauge your current career based on six unique criteria. Use your personalized Job Satisfaction Report to make informed decisions about your career path.

Choose the Major or Program that’s Right for You
Based on your research, you may have found some possible NIU programs to meet your goals. Here are tips from NIU staff, students, and alums to help you make your decision.

Use your university resources! Every university you consider should have career and academic advising services available. At NIU, we have these resources. And most are available to potential students even before you enroll!

• Your Program Advisor: Every department or program at NIU has an advisor who is available to answer your questions – even before you enroll! Click here [niu.edu/advising/advising/who.shtml] for a list of NIU advisors.

• The Academic Advising Center: If you are uncertain which department or major might best serve your needs, contact NIU’s Academic Advising Center [niu.edu/advising/advising/index.shtml]. Their counselors will meet with you in-person or by phone to discuss your academic options and help you find the program that will best fit your personal and career goals.

• The Transfer Center: If you have an Associate’s Degree or have taken some community college courses, contact the Transfer Center [niu.edu/admissions/transfer/contact/index.shtml] to find out which NIU programs will help you build on your previous courses.

Illinois workNet
Want to see career trends and projected job growth for the state of Illinois? Illinois workNet [illinoisworknet.com] is your resource for all things work-related in Illinois.

• You can also find available jobs, get personalized advice from a career counselor, and get help with your resume and cover letter at an Illinois workNet Career Center. Use the convenient workNet Service Locator [illinoisworknet.com/Connect/Pages/LocationSearch.aspx] to find a location near you.

“If a student already has an associate’s degree and comes to meet with me then I will answer any questions they have about transferring to NIU. The type of degree they have will shape the conversation along with their intended major at NIU. One of the things I love about my job is that no two meetings are the same with transfer students. Every student has their own story and path.”

-- Katy Saalfeld
Acting Associate Director & Transfer Coordinator for Admissions at NIU
**Career Services for NIU Students**

Once you have been admitted to NIU, you can take advantage of the many resources NIU provides to help its students choose a rewarding career, connect with employers, and prepare for the job search.

- **Career Counseling**
  [niu.edu/CareerServices/Career_Counseling_Exploration/index.shtml#career_counseling]
  Professional counselors are available to assist students and alumni with all aspects of the job search: establishing a career plan, preparing a résumé, identifying potential employers, and a variety of other career-related concerns.

- **Career Fairs**
  [niu.edu/CareerServices/career_fairs/index.shtml]
  NIU hosts several Job and Internship Fairs each year. These allow students to network, discover opportunities, and make a strong first impression on potential employers.

- **Huskies Get Hired!**
  [niu.experience.com/experience/login]
  Our internship and job search system connects NIU students and alums only with top employers in the region. In 2013-2014, 5,580 jobs and 1,455 internships were posted here.

- **Mentoring Programs**
  [niu.edu/careerservices/huskie-2-huskie/mentee.shtml]
  NIU students benefit from the extensive network of NIU alumni working in a wide range of fields through mentoring programs that pair each student with an NIU alum who wants to provide career advice.

“**Our goal is student-centered success, and we need to prepare students for successful, bold futures, by supplying them with the resources necessary to obtain such futures. In order to provide such resources, our meetings will start with a lot of questions for the student, and listening to what the student’s needs and desires are for their degree. From there, we can provide appropriate admissions counseling.”**

– Arielle Kalvelage, NIU Alum and Senior Admissions Counselor

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**Tip:** You don’t have to wait until you’re ready to apply for jobs before you meet with a career counselor. As soon as you enroll at NIU, a career counselor can help you with your academic decision making.

**Tip:** If you are considering enrolling in community college but haven’t yet, you can still meet with a transfer admissions counselor right away! They will help you plan your community college courses to meet NIU’s admission and degree requirements, which will save you time and hassle later.