

Choosing the Right Career

When faced with a particularly difficult decision, it may be helpful to utilize a decision-making model. A part of any good decision-making model involves identifying your key values because your key values influence your decision making process, as well as how you feel about the results. Check out the self-assessment tools located on the [UW Flexible Option website](#) to better understand how your interests and personality intersect with career options to aid you in your career decision-making process.

There are many different decision-making models. What follows is an example of only one. It covers key areas you want to consider when making a significant decision. Feel free to use it, or use a different one.

A Decision-Making Model

1. Define the decision.
2. List the alternatives (what are your other choices?).
3. Determine acceptable or unacceptable alternatives (list pros and cons of each choice).
4. Gather information, resources and people who may be able to answer questions.
5. Consider your goals, values and the facts.
6. Make your decision and list your reasons for your choice.
7. Check out how you feel about the decision. Does it feel right?

Considerations When Making Decisions

To some extent, nearly every decision is a compromise. There is usually a price to be paid for everything we choose to do. However, a good decision is based on the best information you have at the time. In the future, you may have additional information and make a different decision or modify the decision you made. As you are faced with tough decisions, consider the following:

- ***Very few decisions are irreversible.***
- ***Change is frequently a process of trial and error; a process of experimentation.***
- ***You may never have all the information you feel you need.***
- ***Some changes will occur regardless of if we want them to or not; ignoring them will not make them go away.***
- ***Many things that we fear are seldom as painful as we imagine.***
- ***No decision is perfect.***