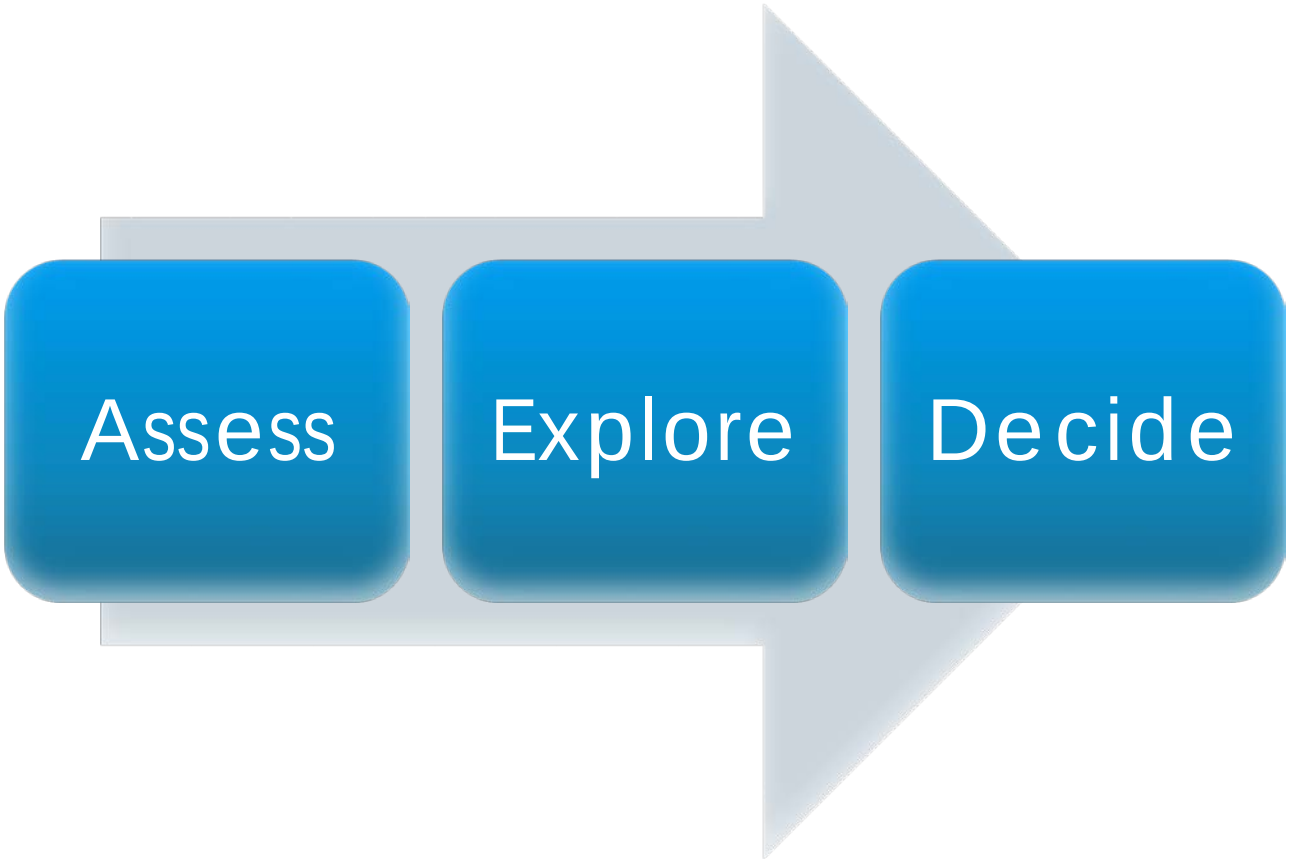
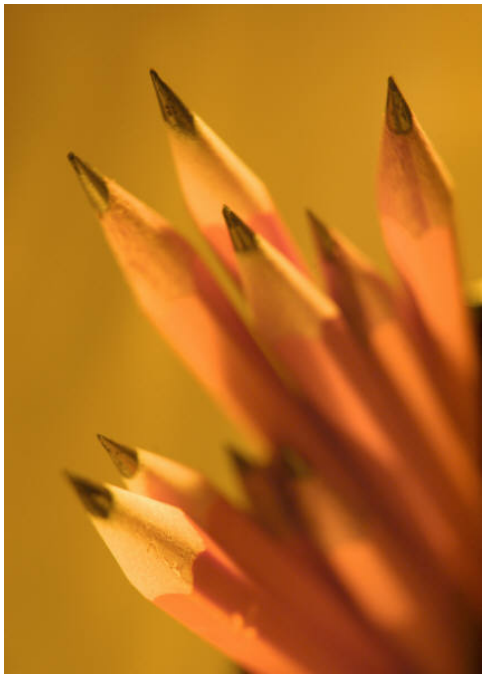
Selecting a Career or College Major

A Tutorial for College of Marin Students

3 Easy Steps to choose a career or major



Self Assessment



Self-assessment is the first step in choosing careers or majors that might be a good fit for you.

A comprehensive career assessment will look at three specific areas:

- Your **Interests** (what you enjoy doing)
- Your **Skills** (what you are capable of doing)
- Your **Values** (what workplace qualities are most important to you)

Career Interest Inventory

A **Career Interests Inventory** will help you identify patterns in things that you enjoy doing or that you think you would enjoy doing. Interest inventories do not evaluate your skill level for doing these activities, just your interest level.

Career interests can include:

- Building things
- Researching or problem solving
- Writing, composing or performing
- Counseling/guiding/teaching
- Organizing information

Skills Assessment

A **skills assessment** will identify what you are good at doing. Skills can be developed through either formal training or education, as well as through everyday living.

Skills fall into two general categories:

- **Technical skills**- these are skills that you generally learn through school or formal education such as how to graphically design a brochure, or write computer code, or how to cut granite.
- **Soft Skills**-these are skills that are mostly learned through everyday life. They include good listening skills, critical thinking skills, punctuality, etc.

Values Assessment

A **Career Values Assessment** will identify motivating factors for you in the workplace and important personal qualities of a workplace. The more aligned your work environment is to your values, the more successful and satisfied you will be in a particular career.

Workplace Values can include:

- Achievement
- Independence
- Recognition
- Relationships
- Working conditions

Ready, Set, Assess

Now that you know what three assessments (interests, skills, and values) comprise a complete career assessment battery, you are ready to go!

- Log onto the Kuder to get a complete assessment of your interests, skills, and values

http://www.kuderjourney.com/

(College of Marin students get an activation code from the Career and Transfer Center)

Start the Kuder Journey

- Contact the Career and Transfer Center for an activation code

Explore the Career Clusters

Completing the interest, skills, and values assessment on the Kuder will provide you information about Career Clusters that may be a good fit for you. Career clusters are groups of similar occupations and industries. There are 16 career clusters developed by the U.S. Department of Education. By exploring these Career Clusters you can identify potential college majors and/or careers.

Career Clusters

There are several good websites to explore Career Clusters, but start with ***California Career Café***, a site designed especially for California Community College students.

http://www.cacareercafe.com/explore/

- **View** the career video for each of your identified career clusters
- **Read** about traits of the career cluster and think about if that sounds like you
- **Research** professional associations

✓ If you enjoy watching career videos check out this site for more detailed videos within each career cluster

http://www.careeronestop.org/Videos/CareerandClusterVideos/career-and-cluster-videos.aspx

Exploring Career Pathways on Career Café

Choose one of the career pathways to explore

Watch a video about the career

Learn about traits of the profession

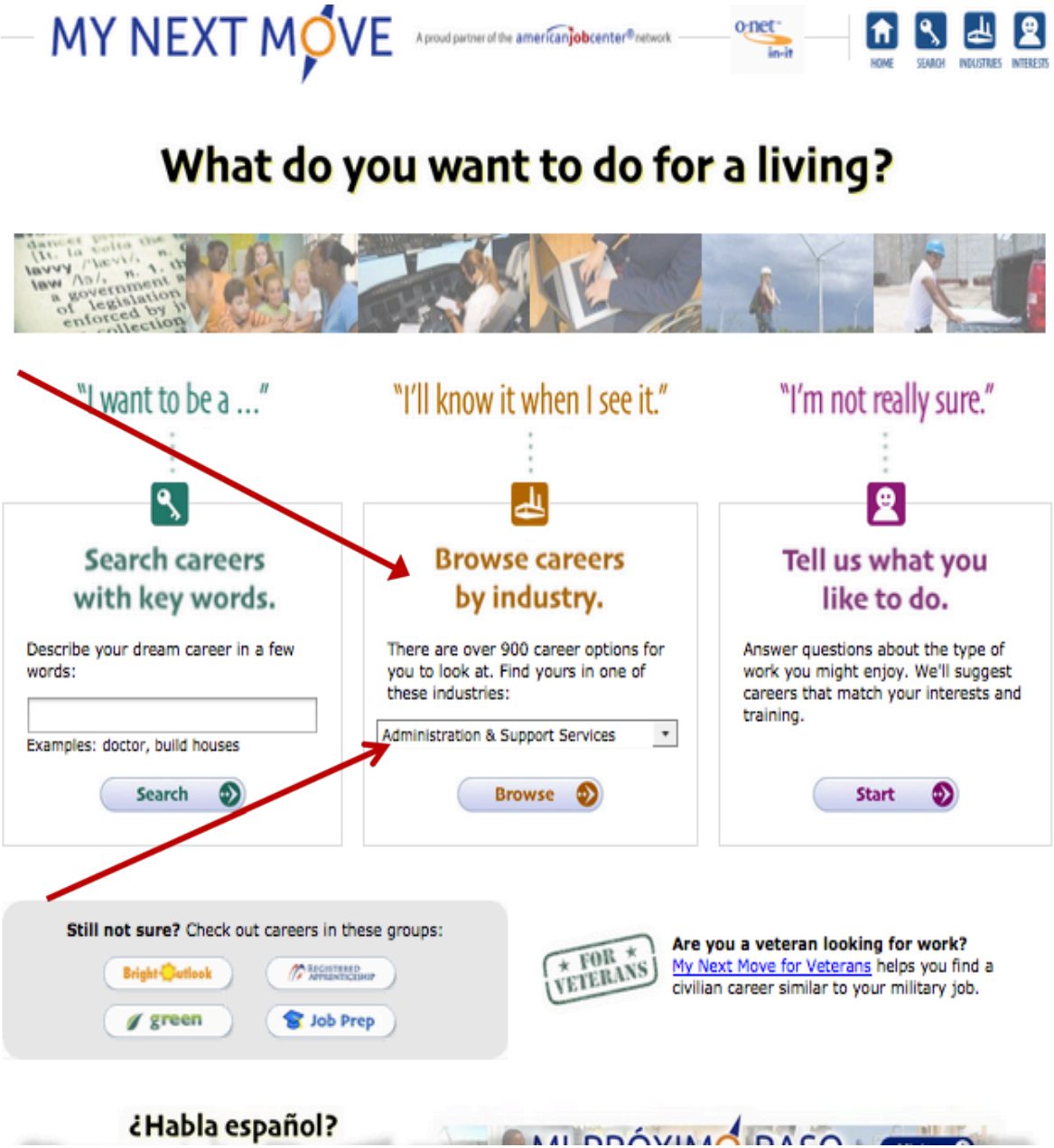
Explore Professional Associations

Dig a Little Deeper

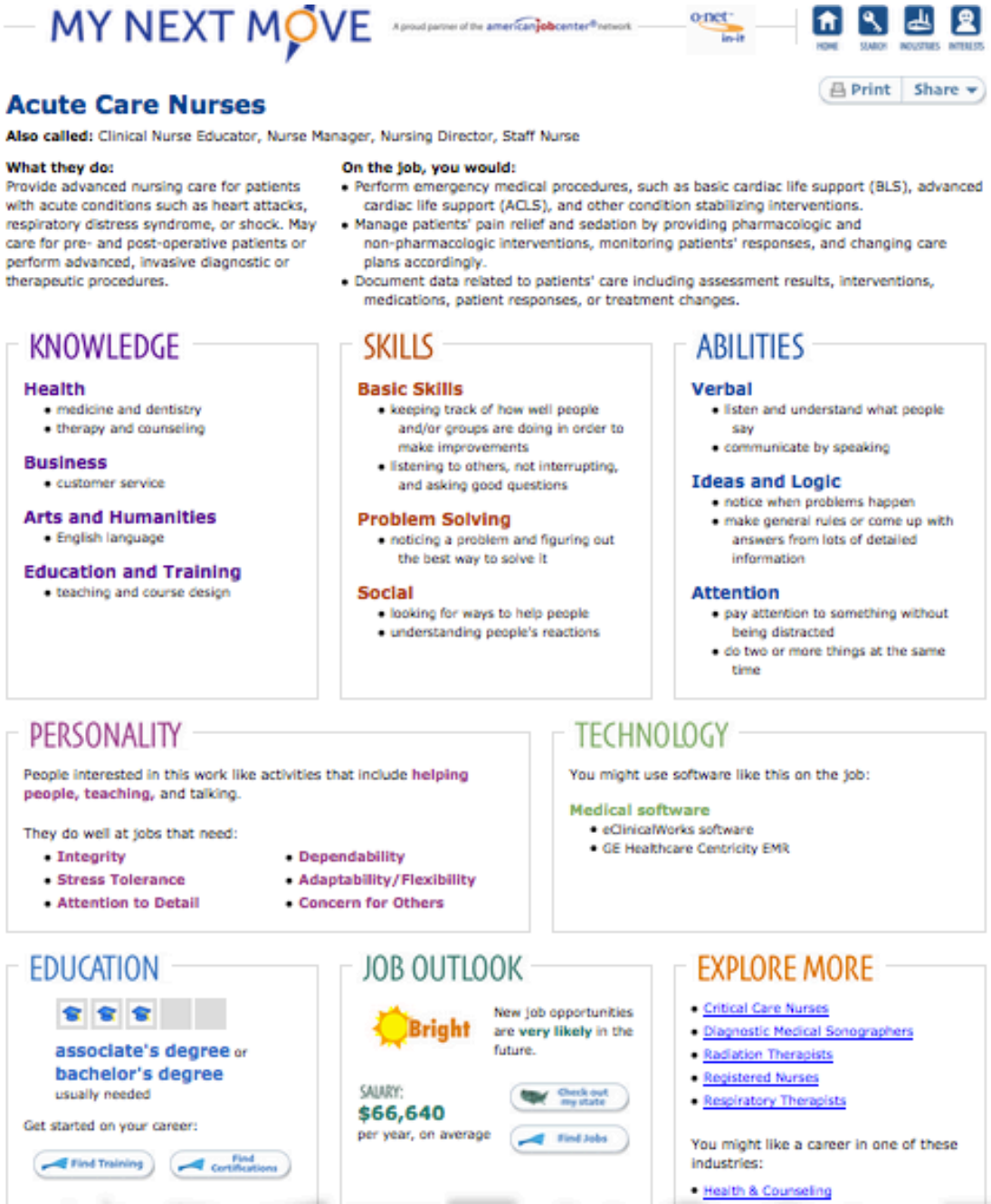
Log onto ***My Next Move*** and browse careers by industry
http://www.mynextmove.org/

- Choose specific careers within the cluster to explore
- Pay attention to the education required and job outlook to get a better idea of the opportunities available in the field within your state, as well as, the educational level you will need to be prepared to do that job.
- For those careers that most interest you click on the link at the bottom of the page to get you to the **O*Net site** which will provide you even more detailed information.

1. Choose “Browse careers by industry”



1. Pick an industry From the drop down bar and then click on a specific career



Pay attention to education level and job outlook

Does the required knowledge, skills, and abilities seem like a good fit for you?

Are you really interested in that career?

Click Here
(at the very bottom of the Page)

The O*Net site provides lots of additional details about careers

Click on the tabs to view the information in different ways

Further Investigation

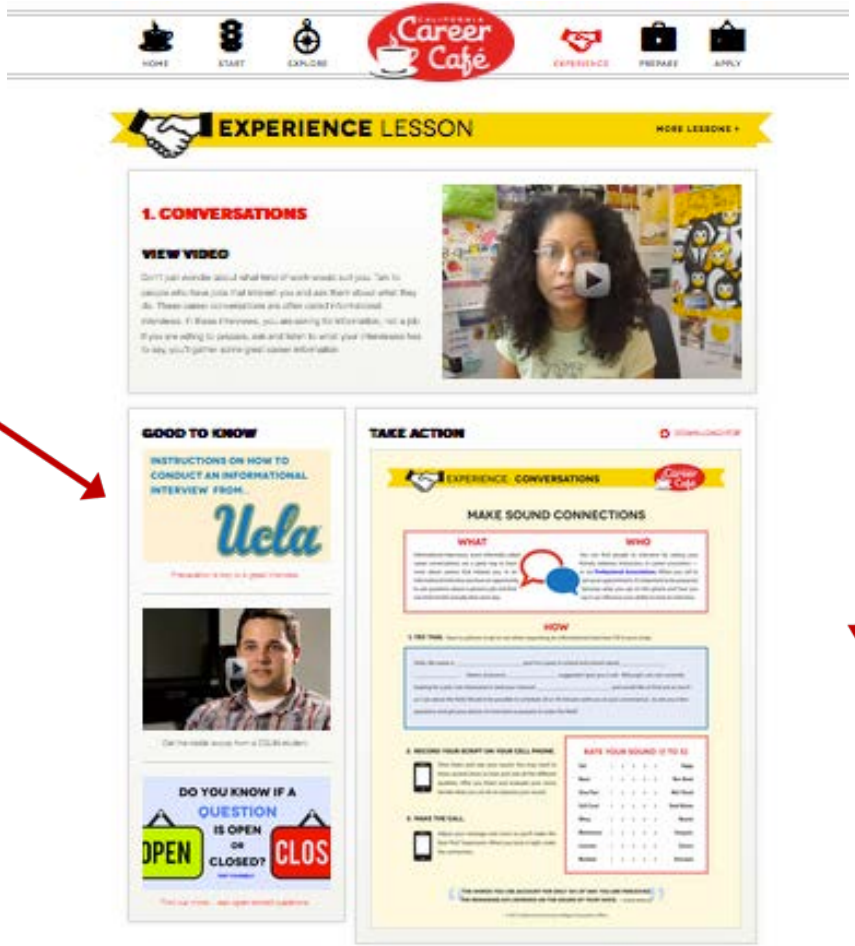
When you have decided on some potential careers, it is a good idea to contact people in those professions to request an ***informational interview*** to help you gather additional information about that field.

California Career Café provides information about setting up an informational interview and creating questions to ask professionals during an informational interview.

http://www.cacareercafe.com/experience/conversations/

Informational Interview

Lots of useful information on requesting informational interviews, questions to ask during an interview, and more!



Script to help you request an informational interview

I have decided I want to be a...

Congratulations! You have decided on some potential careers, **now what**?

Look for college majors that will prepare you for a career in that field.

Researching College Majors

A good place to start your research is **California Career Zone.**

https://www.cacareerzone.org/majors/clusters

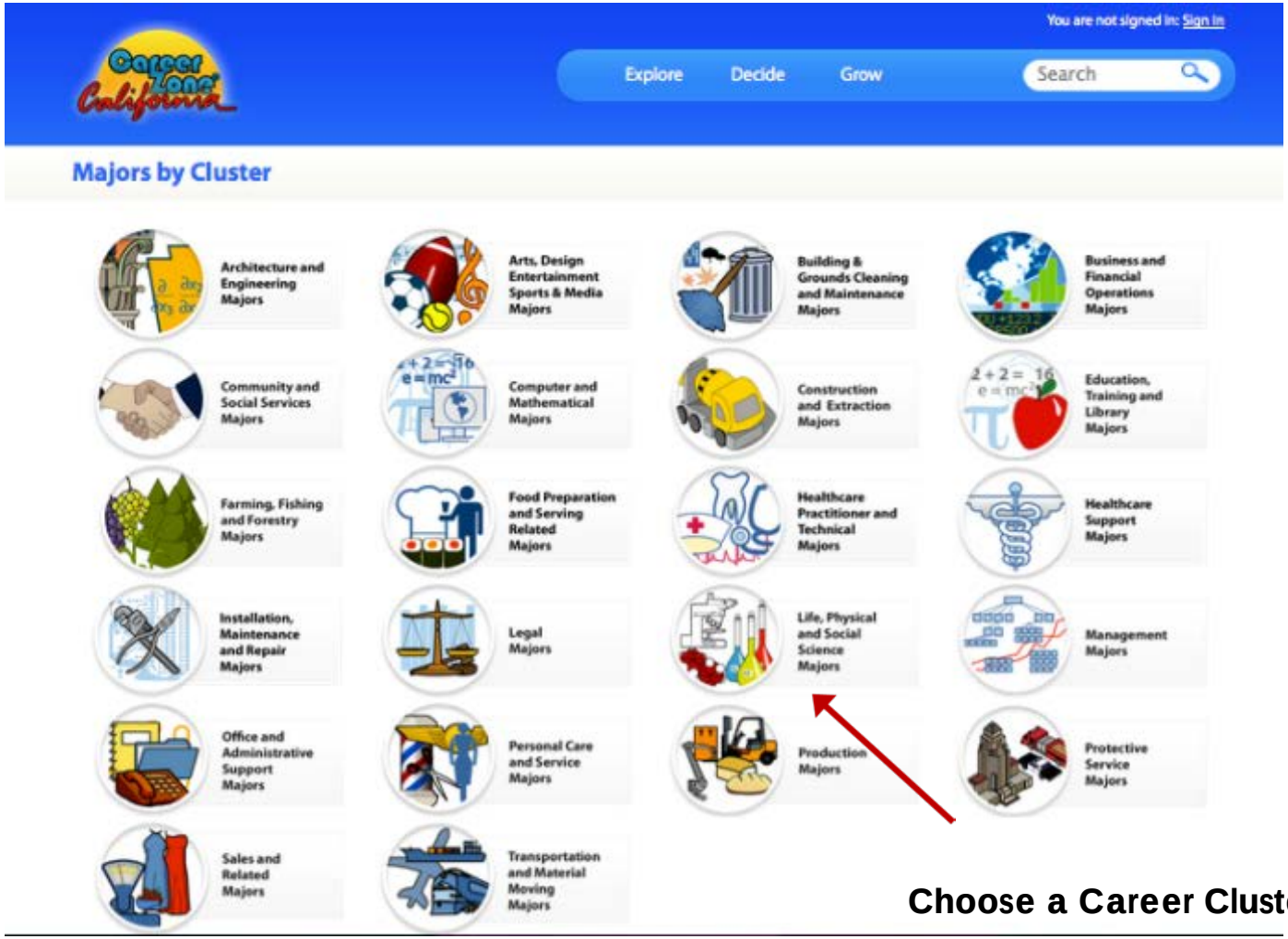
1. Choose a career cluster (these are slightly different than the ones on the previous sites)

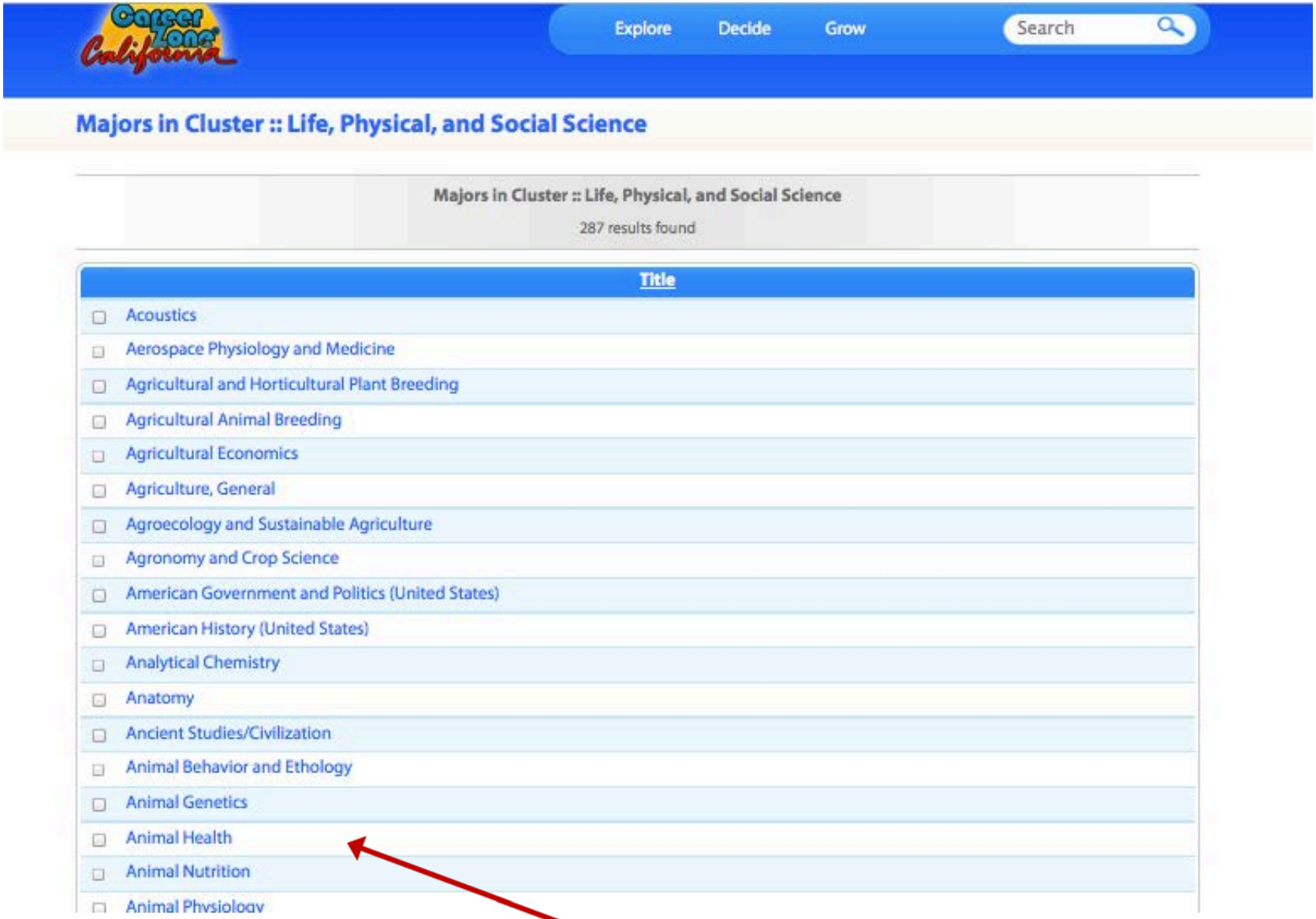
2. Choose a major to explore

3. Each major page will provide a short summary of the major, potential jobs associated with that major, similar majors, and a graduation summary for that major

- You can also use this site to search for Universities that have these majors by clicking on the button on the top right hand sided labeled "Find Institutions Offering…"

Exploring Majors on California Career Zone




Explore
Decide
Grow
Search
Majors in Cluster :: Life, Physical, and Social Science
Majors in Cluster :: Life, Physical, and Social Science
287 results found
Title
Acoustics
Aerospace Physiology and Medicine
Agricultural and Horticultural Plant Breeding
Agricultural Animal Breeding
Agricultural Economics
Agriculture, General
Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture
Agronomy and Crop Science
American Government and Politics (United States)
American History (United States)
Analytical Chemistry
Anatomy
Ancient Studies/Civilization
Animal Behavior and Ethology
Animal Genetics
Animal Health
Animal Nutrition
Animal Physiology
Identify a career within the cluster

Animal Health

Journal | History | Share | Print | Bookmark

A program that focuses on the application of biological and chemical principles to the study, prevention, and control of diseases in agricultural animal populations. Includes instruction in environmental science, pharmacology, animal population studies, genetics, animal physiology and diet, disease prevention, treatment methodologies, and laboratory and testing procedures.

Find institutions offering Animal Health

Examples of typical jobs

Search for colleges offering this major

What can you become with this major?

- Farm and Ranch Managers
- Animal Scientists
- Aquacultural Managers
- Agricultural Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary

Other Similar Majors

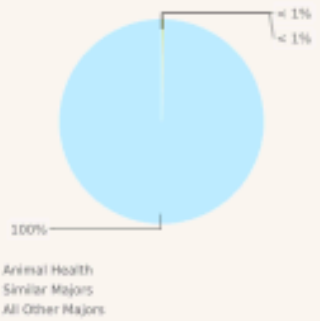
Similar majors

- Agribusiness/Agricultural Business Operations
- Agricultural and Domestic Animal Services, Other
- Agricultural and Extension Education Services
- Agricultural and Food Products Processing
- Agricultural and Horticultural Plant Breeding
- Agricultural Animal Breeding
- Agricultural Business and Management, General
- Agricultural Business and Management, Other
- Agricultural Business Technology
- Agricultural Communication/Journalism
- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural/Farm Supplies Retailing and Wholesaling
- Agricultural Mechanics and Equipment/Machine Technology
- Agricultural Mechanization, General
- Aquaculture
- Crop Production
- Dairy Husbandry and Production
- Dairy Science
- Dog/Pet/Animal Grooming
- Equestrian/Equine Studies
- Farm/Farm and Ranch Management
- Floriculture/Floristry Operations and Management
- Food Science
- Food Science and Technology, Other
- Food Technology and Processing
- Greenhouse Operations and Management
- Horse Husbandry/Equine Science and Management
- Horticultural Science
- International Agriculture
- Landscaping and Groundskeeping
- Livestock Management

Graduation Summary

The graphs below represent a comparison of the number of graduates in *Animal Health* and the number of graduates in similar majors compared to all other graduates in the state.

And the comparison to all other graduates in the US.



Data about graduates in this major

Another Research Options to Learning about Majors

Another choice for researching majors is **College Major 101**. This is a more limited data base, but provides additional information such as student associations that are related to the major, student competitions, actual employers, and publications related to the field.

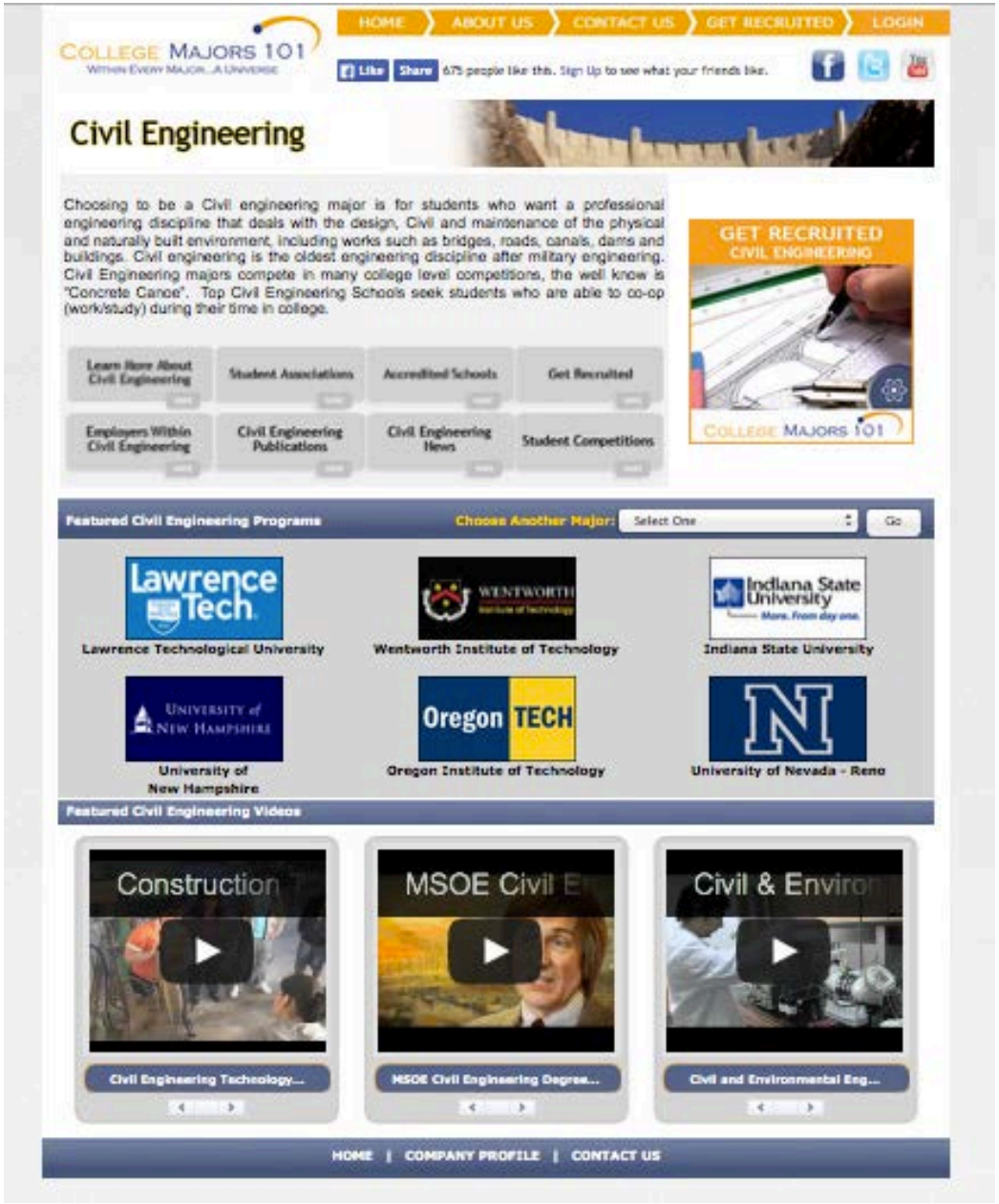
http://www.collegemajors101.com/

- **Check back often as this site is growing and adding new majors all the time.**
- **Scholarship Tip-**Student Professional Associations may be a good source to search for scholarships in your major. Go to an Associations' website and search for "scholarships"

College Majors 101

Choose a major to explore

Click on these tabs to learn more about the major, student associations related to the field and current student competitions.



Potential schools offering the major or search in the tab above labeled "Accredited Schools"

Videos about the field

I have chosen a Major and I'm ready to go!

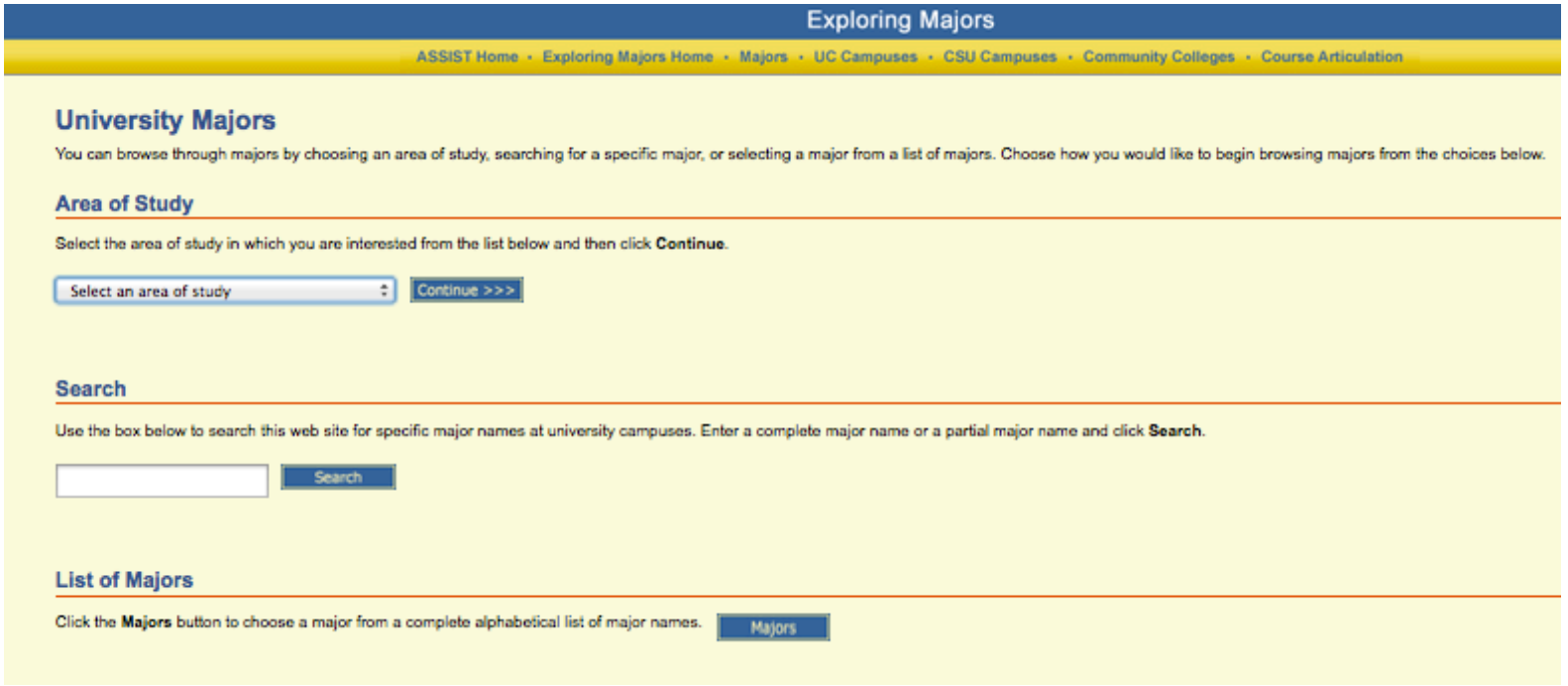
Your next step is to log onto Assist.org to identify which UC's and CSU's offer that major and read articulation agreements between those universities and College of Marin. Assist will also tell you whether it is suggested for you to follow the IGETC requirements for that major.

http://www2.assist.org/exploring-majors/browseAreas.do

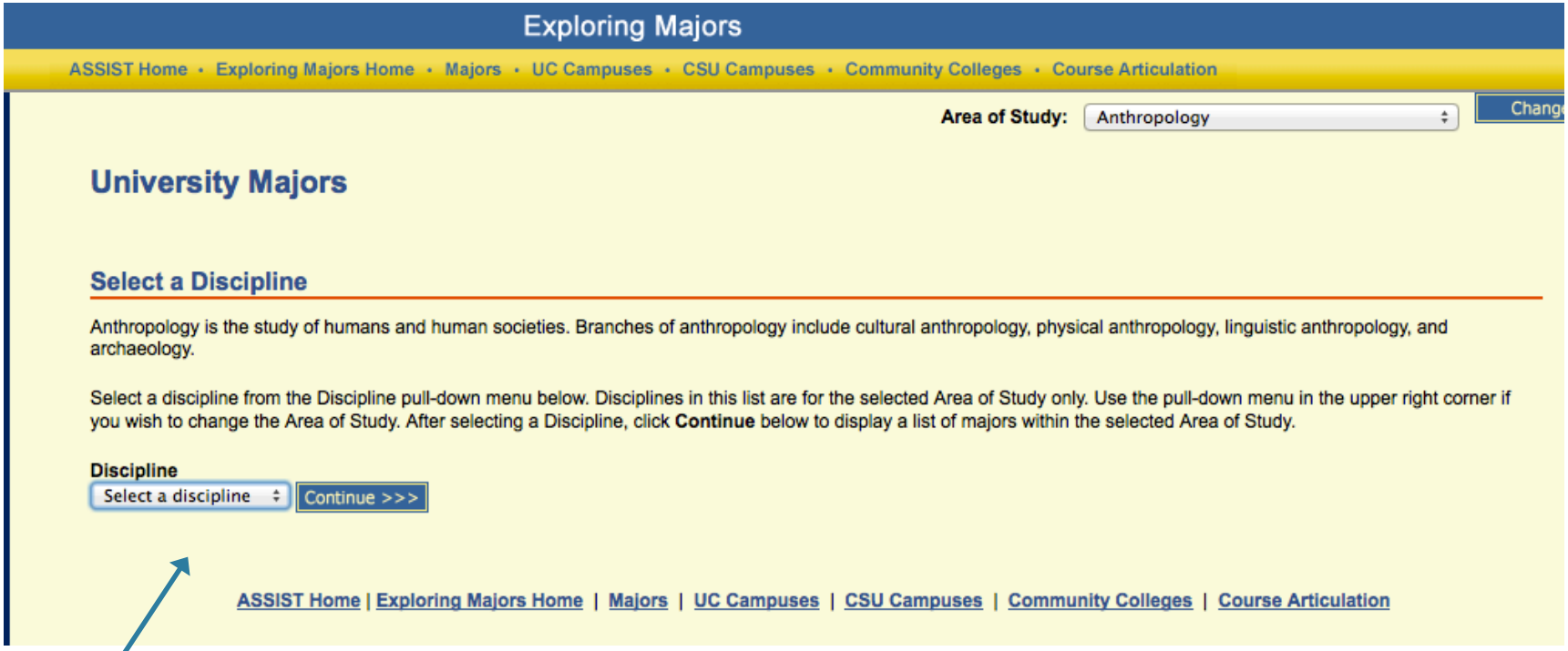
If you have any additional questions, please make an appointment with your College of Marin counselor.

Assist.org

Select an area of study

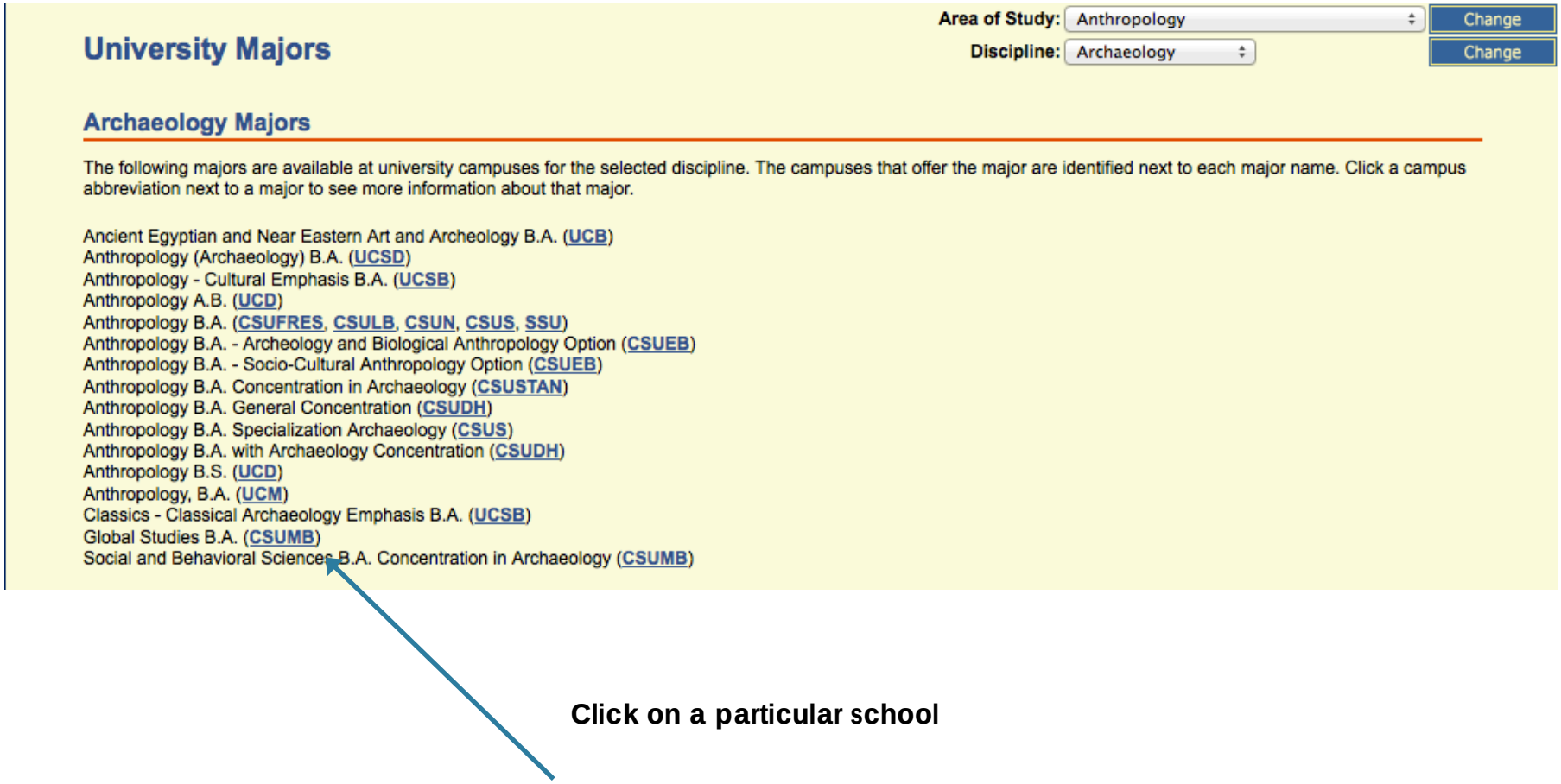


Assist.org



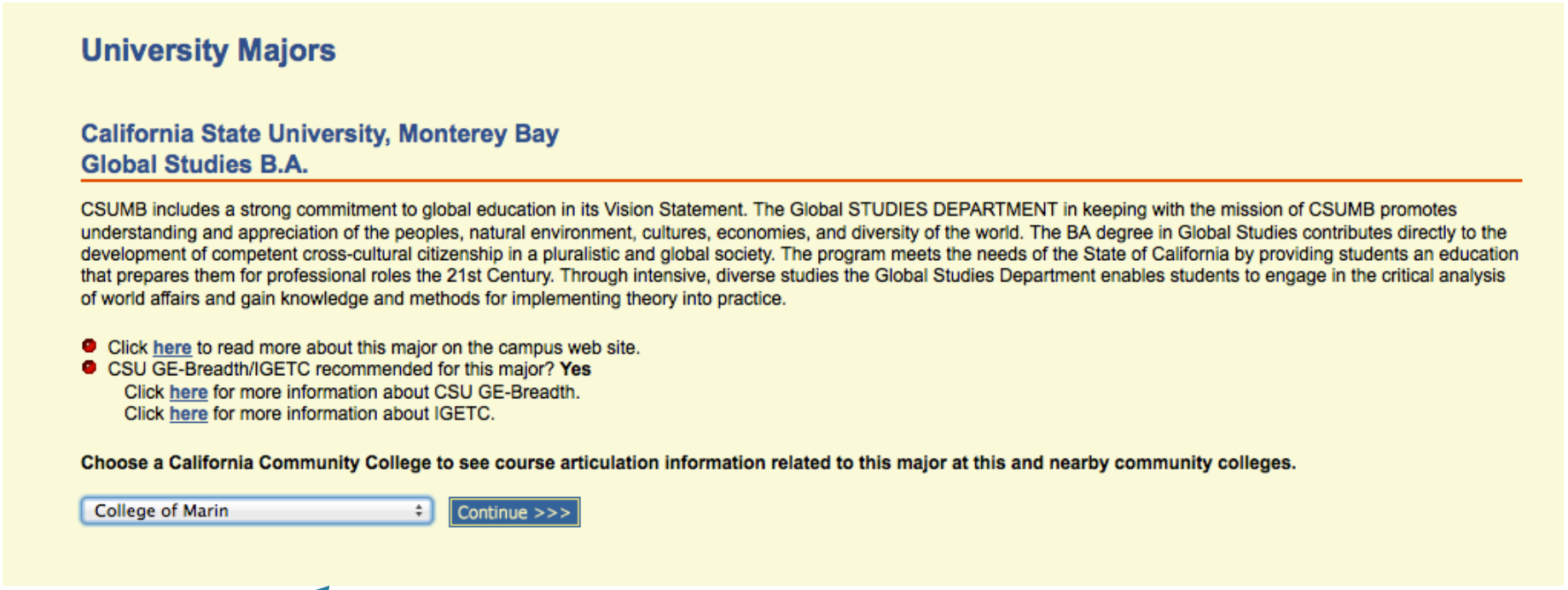
Select a discipline within that field of study

View all your options in the UC and CSU systems for that major



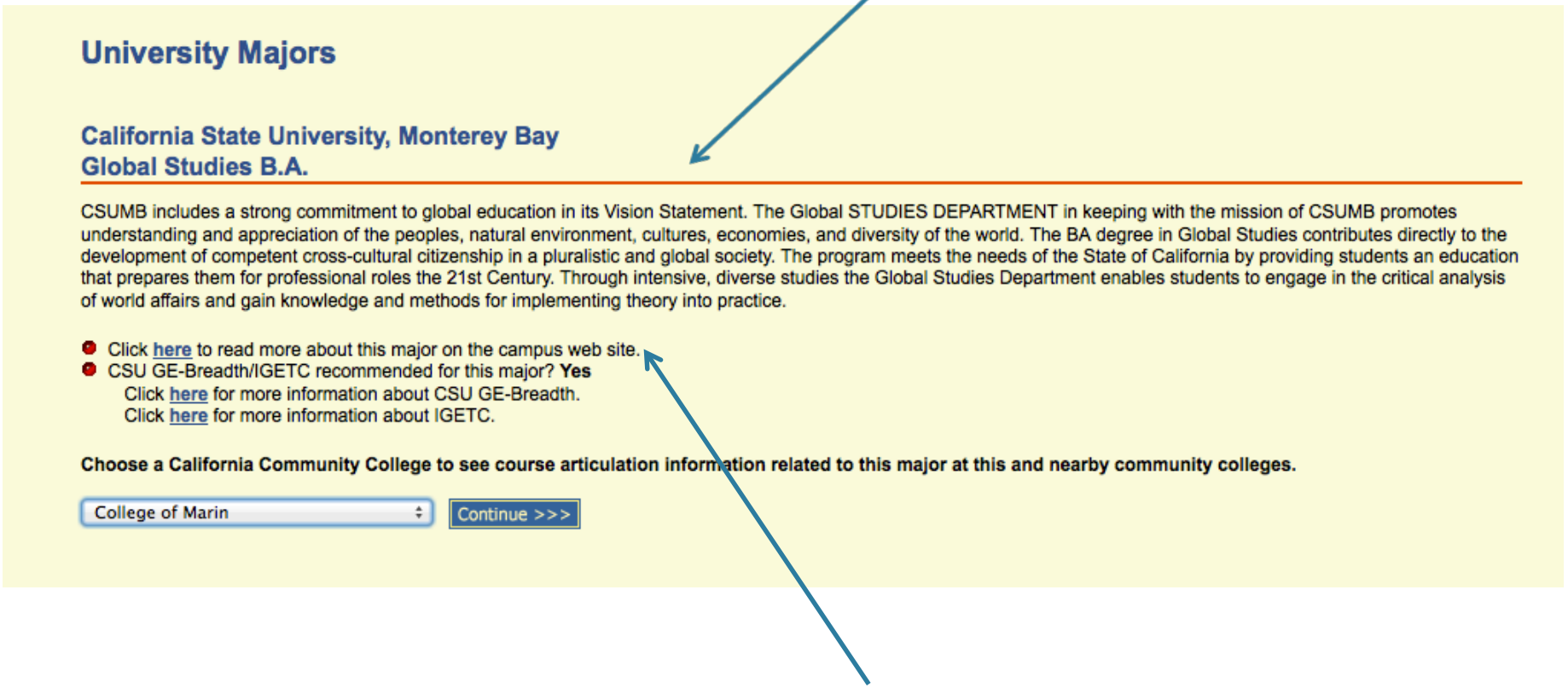
Click on a particular school

Assist.org



Select College of Marin to see articulation information between College of Marin and your selected University

Read the summary of the major to make sure it is one you are interested in



For more information about what the major is like at that school, click the first bullet point to be directed to that major's website on the university's website.

Need additional help or support?

Contact the Transfer and Career Center

Kentfield Campus
Student Services Building
Room 202
Tel: 415.485.9671
Fax: 415.456.7770
transfercenter@marin.edu

Or your College of Marin counselor

Tel: 415.485.9432 or 415.485.9430
Or schedule an appointment online

Links to Websites

- **Kuder Assessment**

http://www.kuderjourney.com/

- **California Career Café**

http://www.cacareercafe.com/explore/ (exploring majors)

http://www.cacareercafe.com/experience/conversations/
(Informational Interviews)

- **Career One Stop Videos**

http://www.careeronestop.org/Videos/CareerandClusterVideos/career-and-cluster-videos.aspx

Website Links Cont.

- **My Next Move**

http://www.mynextmove.org/

California Career Zone

https://www.cacareerzone.org/majors/clusters

- **College Majors 101**

http://www.collegemajors101.com/

- **Assist.com**

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