

BIAS IN DECISION-MAKING

CONFIRMATION BIAS

THIS BIAS IS CENTERED AROUND THE APPROACH THAT YOU SEEK OUT OPINIONS/INFORMATION THAT CONFIRM YOUR INITIAL FEELINGS ON DECISION. IN PICKING A MAJOR, YOU MAY NOT CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO SEE PAST THE INFORMATION YOU GATHERED AND ONLY SEEK OUT ADVICE OF OTHERS THAT CONFIRM THE MAJOR THOUGHTS YOU HAVE BEEN THINKING.

HINDSIGHT BIAS

THIS BIAS IS CENTERED AROUND THE APPROACH THAT YOU KNOW HOW AN EVENT WILL OCCUR BECAUSE HINDSIGHT BIAS RESTRICTS YOUR LEARNING FROM PAST EVENTS AND MAKES YOU OVERCONFIDENT IN WHAT YOU PREDICT IN THE FUTURE. THIS CAN HINDER YOUR MAJOR DECISION PROCESS BY EVALUATING A MAJOR ON CERTAIN THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST. PERHAPS IT WAS ONE CHEMISTRY CLASS IN HIGH SCHOOL? OR MAYBE YOU HAD A GOOD EXPERIENCE WITH SOMEONE IN A CAREER, LIKE A DOCTOR OR NURSE?

OVERCONFIDENCE BIAS

THIS BIAS IS CENTERED AROUND THE APPROACH OF HOW "CORRECT" YOU ARE IN YOUR DECISIONS. THIS MIGHT MANIFEST IN A MAJOR DECISION WHEN YOU FEEL THERE IS ONE "RIGHT" MAJOR FOR YOU.

ANCHORING BIAS

THIS BIAS IS CENTERED AROUND THE APPROACH THAT YOU LATCH ONTO INITIAL INFORMATION AND IGNORE SUBSEQUENT DETAILS. IN PICKING A MAJOR, YOU MIGHT PUT TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE INFORMATION YOU FIRST LEARN AND DO NOT EVALUATE ALL DETAILS. THIS MIGHT LEAD TO YOU HEAVILY EMPHASIZING A PRO OR A CON FOR A MAJOR WITHOUT LOOKING AT FULL PICTURE.

NOTES:

IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE THIS BIAS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS AS YOU EXPLORE MAJORS: WHAT ARE AREAS OF INFORMATION AM I MISSING IN PICKING A MAJOR? DID I SEEK ANYTHING THAT CHALLENGED ME ON MY THOUGHTS? WHO IS SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO THAT MIGHT ALSO CHALLENGE MY ASSUMPTIONS?

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IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE THIS BIAS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS AS YOU EXPLORE MAJORS: AM I OVERTHINKING AN EVENT IN THE PAST AND ITS IMPACT ON MY CURRENT SITUATION? WHY MIGHT I BE DOING THIS? HOW CAN I TEST THIS TO SEE IF MY ASSUMPTIONS ARE TRUE?

NOTES:

IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE THIS BIAS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS AS YOU EXPLORE MAJORS: HAVE I CONSIDERED MY OPTIONS? HAVE I DONE MY RESEARCH? WHO HAVE I TALKED OVER MY DECISION WITH?

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IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE THIS BIAS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS AS YOU EXPLORE MAJORS: HAVE I MADE A PROS/CONS LIST FOR THE MAJOR? AM I OVEREMPHASIZING SOMETHING? WHO CAN I TALK TO RECEIVE A BIGGER PICTURE OF THAT MAJOR?

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REPRESENTATIVE BIAS

THIS BIAS IS CENTERED AROUND COMPARING SITUATIONS THAT APPEAR SIMILAR, BUT THEY ARE NOT GIVEN PROPER CONTEXT IN THE COMPARISON. THIS HAPPENS IN MAJOR EXPLORATION WHEN YOU MIGHT INCLUDE OR EXCLUDE A MAJOR BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO BE SIMILAR TO ANOTHER ONE. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU MIGHT HAVE DISLIKED YOUR CHEMISTRY CLASS, SO YOU EXCLUDE ALL SCIENCE MAJORS BECAUSE YOU DID NOT LIKE CHEMISTRY.

COMMITMENT ERRORS

THIS ERROR IS CENTERED AROUND COMMITTING TO A PRIOR DECISION, DESPITE NEGATIVE INFORMATION. THIS MAY HAPPEN IN THE MAJOR EXPLORATION PROCESS WHEN YOU ARE THINKING A MAJOR THAT MIGHT NOT BE A PRACTICAL FIT. PERHAPS YOUR GPA IS TOO FAR OFF THE NEEDED GPA TO DECLARE BE ADMITTED. OR PERHAPS YOU ARE TOO FAR ALONG/MISSING PREREQUISITES TO GRADUATE IN A TIMELY MATTER.

AVAILABILITY BIAS

THIS BIAS IS CENTERED AROUND MAKING DECISIONS AROUND INFORMATION THAT IS MOST EASILY AVAILABLE TO YOU. THIS HAPPENS IN MAJOR EXPLORATION WHEN YOU DO NOT SEEK OUT THOROUGH INFORMATION ON A MAJOR BEFORE DECIDING.

RANDOMNESS ERRORS

THIS ERROR IS CENTERED AROUND BELIEVING THAT LUCK AND RANDOMNESS SHOULD HAVE A ROLE IN YOUR DECISION MAKING. THIS MAY OCCUR IN THE MAJOR EXPLORATION PROCESS WHEN YOU FEEL THAT REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU DECIDE, YOU FEEL THAT YOUR SUCCESS IS A BIT OUT OF YOUR HANDS.

NOTES:

IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE THIS BIAS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS AS YOU EXPLORE MAJORS: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MAJORS I AM CONSIDERING? I AM I EXCLUDING SOMETHING BECAUSE OF THE ASSUMPTIONS I HAVE OF THAT MAJOR?

NOTES:

IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE THESE ERRORS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS AS YOU EXPLORE MAJORS: WHAT IS MY ULTIMATE GOAL FOR PICKING THIS MAJOR, AND WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO MY SUCCESS? IF THE BARRIERS ARE LARGE, ARE THERE OTHER OPTIONS I AM EXCLUDING BECAUSE OF MY COMMITMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

NOTES:

IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE THIS BIAS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS AS YOU EXPLORE MAJORS: WHAT INFORMATION DO I HAVE MISSING, AND IS IT SIGNIFICANT? HAVE I TALKED TO SOMEONE ABOUT THE MAJOR, LIKE AN ADVISOR OR FACULTY MEMBER? HAVE I VISITED AND INVESTIGATED THE MAJOR DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE?

NOTES:

IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE THIS BIAS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS AS YOU EXPLORE MAJORS: DO I FEEL CONFIDENT I WILL DETERMINE MY SUCCESS IN THIS MAJOR? ARE THERE OTHER OUTSIDE PRESSURES THAT ARE LEADING ME TO PICKING THIS MAJOR?