

# THE GREEN WAY

*Growing your college career at Columbia State*



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## How to Choose a Major

BY MADDIE UNGER

Choosing a major is daunting! Students are often tasked with juggling the expectations of parents, peers, and their own life goals when picking a major. What's a freshman to do? I asked Kelvin Webster – who assists students with advising – and Tom Hallquist, who is a Communications professor, what advice they would give to a student who needs help declaring a major:

"Choosing a major is a challenging proposition. My experience has led me to believe that many students reach a high level of anxiety in deciding their major. As an advisor, one of the main questions I ask students regarding their selection of the majors is this: What is your passion? What do you love doing? What type of professions do you like? The key focus in this approach is to try to empower the student to look at internal indicators to try to match a major that fits them.

Ultimately, students must decide which field will offer the best return-on-investment for their postsecondary education. I believe a student will find great success exploring a path that they love and enjoy."

**-Kelvin Webster**

"Most students entering college have been told in middle school and high school that they must have a career path and plan accordingly, which is okay. My advice to students entering college is that not deciding on a major is also okay, and that one has to wander and search for opportunities that they have a passion for as a career. Students must be taught the importance of critical thinking and analyzation of options, and to use their imagination and curiosity to develop a career path of their choice. They must be taught to become an entrepreneur and use their initiative to adapt to the ever changing environment of occupational opportunities. My advice is for the student to learn how to dream, set goals, and actually visualize what they want to become."

**-Tom Hallquist**

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## Interview with Gena Ryan

BY MADDIE UNGER

Gena Ryan has been serving students for almost a decade in the Tutoring and Learning Center at Columbia State. As coordinator for the TLC, Ryan is constantly on the go. She is responsible for helping students achieve their academic goals by offering free tutoring and meeting with students one-on-one to help them navigate their Columbia State career.

**Q:** How did you get involved with The Tutoring and Learning Center at Columbia State?

**A:** "I have worked in education for 30 + years, including several years as an elementary school teacher and a decade serving as an assistant director at a local learning center. When I learned about the Teaching and Learning Center coordinator position in 2010 I felt it was a good match with my skills and experience."

**Q:** What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

**A:** "The most fulfilling part of my job is seeing students reach their academic goals. It's an honor to walk with students through their time at Columbia State. I love to celebrate their accomplishments!"

**Q:** Do you have any advice for freshman students?

**A:** "My advice for freshmen is to access the resources that are available. Don't do this alone...seek help, academically and otherwise, early in the semester."

