



# PARALLEL PLAN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

StarID: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Major: \_\_\_\_\_

All MNSU students are encouraged to create a Parallel Plan that includes planning for their current major, while concurrently planning for an alternate major/program. Parallel plans are vital in the event a student's interest or career plans change, they are not making sufficient progress in their major, or a student is denied admission to their program. Creating a parallel plan is about preparing for all the possibilities! Having a parallel plan will allow you to pivot with ease to an alternate major/program and complete a meaningful degree in a reasonable timeframe. Work through the next 5 steps to develop your Parallel Plan.

## Step 1: Self-Awareness

### Reflect on the following questions:

- What interests me in pursuing my current major?
- What courses do I most enjoy?
- What courses am I most successful in?
- What courses do I dislike or have struggled in?
- What values are important in my life?
- What activities do I enjoy? When am I at my best?
- What types of problems do I enjoy solving?
- What are my top skills that I feel most confident in?

### Resources to Help:

- ◆ [Choosing and Changing Majors Handbook](#)
  - ◆ Download & complete.
- ◆ [Career Assessments](#)
  - ◆ FREE & available for purchase
- ◆ [Visit the Career Development Center](#)

## What did you learn?

### List 3 of Your Interests

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

### List 3 of Your Values

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

### List 3 of Your Skills

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

# Step 2: Explore Alternate Majors & Programs

## Reflect on the following questions:

- What other majors/programs/careers have you considered?
- What types of courses would you prefer not to take?
- What is your preferred work environment after graduation?
- What other majors align with your interests, values and abilities?
- What are some occupation titles for another major of interest?
- What are some examples of employers for another major of interest?

## Resources to Help:

- ◆ Review the [Academic Catalog](#) for all majors, and minors and visit the department webpages.
- ◆ Review [What Can I Do With this Major?](#) for an overview of marketable skills, possible work settings, and career paths for many different majors.
- ◆ Watch [Major Stories](#) from other Mavericks.
- ◆ Access the [Career Resources Library](#).
- ◆ Speak with professors and academic advisors to learn about the requirements for these alternate majors or programs.

## What did you learn?

Write down the alternate majors or programs you're considering developing for your Parallel Plan.

1)

2)

3)

Alternate Major or Program	Area of employment/employers of interest

# Step 3: Gather Occupational Information

## Reflect on the following questions:

- What qualifications are employers seeking for job titles that interest you?
- What transferable skills have you gained from your classwork, jobs and extracurricular activities that can be applied to another career of interest?
- What additional experiences should you engage in to enhance your understanding of another career and make you a more marketable candidate?

## Resources to Help:

- ◆ Read job descriptions on [ONET](#)
- ◆ Perform informational interviews & job shadow.
- ◆ [Create](#) application materials.
- ◆ [Attend](#) career fairs and other networking events on campus.
- ◆ [Explore](#) summer job, volunteer and internship opportunities.
- ◆ Get involved and seek out leadership roles.
- ◆ [Launch](#) Your Career!

## What did you learn?

Career	Likes	Dislikes

# Step 4: **CURRENT MAJOR PLAN**



Go to the [Academic Catalog](#) to review degree requirements for your plan.

## **My Current Major is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Required GPA for Admission: \_\_\_\_\_  
Targeted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Most majors require a minimum cumulative GPA for program admission, but some majors also use a specific GPA calculated from the required pre-requisites. Although minimum GPAs are listed in the Academic Catalog, these may be far lower than the average GPAs needed for program acceptance. Consult with an academic advisor to ensure you receive the most accurate information regarding admission.

How competitive is your current choice of major?  Not Competitive  Fairly Competitive  Competitive

How certain are you about this choice of major?  Very Certain  Fairly Certain  Not Certain

How confident are you in your ability to achieve this goal?  Very Confident  Fairly Confident  Not Confident

## **What courses will you need to take over the next three semesters?**

1st	2nd	3rd
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What are the pros and cons of pursuing your current major plan?

Pros: \_\_\_\_\_

Cons: \_\_\_\_\_

## **What is your Pivot Point?**

At what point will you change and follow your alternate major or program plan?

For example:

- Will you change if you earn lower than a C grade in your pre-requisite courses?
- Will you change if you are less interested in this major after completing the introductory course?

I will pivot to my Alternate Plan when : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Step 5: ALTERNATE PLAN



Go to the [Academic Catalog](#) to review degree requirements for your plan.

**My Alternate Plan is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Required GPA for Admission: \_\_\_\_\_

Targeted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Most majors require a minimum cumulative GPA for program admission, but some majors also use a specific GPA calculated from the required pre-requisites. Although minimum GPAs are listed in the Academic Catalog, these may be far lower than the average GPAs needed for program acceptance. Consult with an academic advisor to ensure you receive the most accurate information regarding admission.

How competitive is this strategic parallel plan?  Not Competitive  Fairly Competitive  Competitive

How certain are you about this choice of major?  Very Certain  Fairly Certain  Not Certain

How confident are you in your ability to achieve this goal?  Very Confident  Fairly Confident  Not Confident

## What courses will you need to take over the next three semesters?

1st	2nd	3rd
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What are the pros and cons of pursuing this alternate plan?

Pros: \_\_\_\_\_

Cons: \_\_\_\_\_

## How will you know this choice is right for you?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Follow up contacts for this Alternate Plan:

\_\_\_\_\_