PROBING QUESTIONS

Self-Exploration

✓ As far back as you can remember, what general occupational fields have you thought of?
✓ What subjects did you enjoy in high school? In what subjects were your best grades?
✓ Do you consider your strengths to be in the mathematics, science, social science, humanities, or arts?
✓ What type of extra-curricular activities did you take part in in high school? Which were the most enjoyable? What did you learn about yourself from them?
✓ What are your best personal qualities? What do your friends like the most about you?
✓ What do you see as your limitations?
✓ Name your greatest accomplishment so far. What about the experience made it special?
✓ In what kind of work environment do you picture yourself in five years out of college?
✓ If you have spare time, what do you do?
✓ Why are you in college?
✓ What does a college degree mean to you?
Academic Major/Occupational Information

- What academic areas are you currently considering? What do you like about these areas?
- What occupation are you considering? What about these occupations attract you?
- How do your abilities and skills fit the tasks necessary to succeed in these areas?
- Will these occupations provide the rewards and satisfactions you want for your life? Why?
- What are the differences among the top two (or three) majors (occupations) that you are considering? What are the similarities?
- Who has influenced your ideas about these alternatives?

Decision Making

- Do you ever have trouble making decisions? Little ones? Important ones?
- How do you generally go about making a decision? Describe the process.
- What specific strategies do you use?
- Do you use the same method for all types of decisions?
- Would you describe yourself as a spontaneous or systematic decision maker?
- Do you make decision by yourself or do you need other people’s opinions first?
- Are you feeling anxious about deciding on a major? Pressured? How long do you think it will take to make a decision? How long do you want it to take?

Prepared by: Virginia Gordon, The Ohio State University