

Guidelines for Decision-Making

There is no magic formula for decision-making. This is especially true when deciding something as important as your career direction. While there are often strong emotional components to decision-making, we have provided you with a more logical, analytic process. As you work through the decision-making exercises on the CiM Web site, here are some guidelines that may help.

Guideline # 1) Use what has worked in the past

When faced with important decisions in the past, what have you done that's been helpful? Whatever strategy has worked before should probably be included in your decision-making strategy now. Think about important decisions you have already made, and list the strategies you employed that helped in making those decisions.

For example:

Decision: *Which college to attend?*

Strategies that Helped: Conversations with family and alumni, campus visits, catalog review, etc. Now, using the space below, list some important decisions you have made and the strategies used to make those decisions.

Decision: _____

Strategies that Helped: _____

Decision: _____

Strategies that Helped: _____

Decision: _____

Strategies that Helped: _____

Now, employ those same strategies as you complete the decision-making process for career direction and specialty options.

Guideline # 2) Use your advisory group

You have been meeting with one or two advisors. You may also have selected other informal advisors to talk over various issues. Discuss your specialty choice decision with these people. While the choice is ultimately yours, having others who know you and who can provide ideas and opinions can be very useful. Write down their comments below.

Advisory Group Insights

Advisor 1)

Insight(s)

Advisor 2)

Insight(s)

Advisor 3)

Insight(s)

Guideline # 3) Trust your own judgment

You have made important decisions before, and can make this one. You know yourself best; once you make a choice, don't second-guess it. Decisions are not set in stone. Analyze all the information you have gathered, discuss it with trusted advisors, and move forward.