ExcelliSpace
EMPOWERING DREAMS, ENGINEERING FUTURES

College MDR (Major Decision Review) Training Packet

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Initial Research Process
- MDR Tool Overview
- Core Areas Overview
- Data Inputs and Ratings
- Resulting Outputs
- Conclusion

Introduction

Introduction

Dr. Alinda Mashiku

Summary of Dr. Mashiku's academic, professional and mentoring, profile:

- **Advanced Academic Foundation**: Holds Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University (OSU) and both Master's and PhD in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from Purdue University. Utilize my educational experience and technical expertise to help others create actionable plans for academic and career success in STEM fields. Before OSU, spent 1st year in college attending Columbus State Community College in Columbus, Ohio, while working full-time.

- **Senior NASA Engineer**: Program Manager on Satellite Collision Avoidance at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (12+ years) leading the CARA (Conjunction Assessment Risk Analysis) Program with specialization in Astrodynamics/Orbital Mechanics, Space Situational Awareness, Satellite Navigation, Amazon Web Services (AWS) Certified AI practitioner and researcher for AI/ML applications for space operations.

- **Comprehensive STEM Mentoring Leadership**: 18+ years of experience guiding students and early STEM professionals across all academic levels, from high school STEM workshops through PhD dissertation guidance. I have expertise in various levels of research topic direction, success strategies in the pursuit of a degree, and developing career tracking tools for dozens of engineers across various fields.

About MDR

- **Strategic Decision-Making Tool:** College major selection is a significant decision that requires systematic analysis. We reduce the mental churn and guesswork throughout the decision process.
- **Dual Analysis Approach:** The MDR provides both qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods to assess potential college majors comprehensively and aid in your decision.
- **Student-Centered Process:** The tool allows students to identify and prioritize internal factors that matter the most to them as well incorporate external factors (that may be time-varying) to help inform their major selection process.
- **Active Narrowing Framework:** Students can systematically analyze their top 3 college major options through a structured deductive reasoning approach, visual-graph processing and an iterative feedback loop via ongoing research and updated data inputs.
- **Save you Time and Money:** An article from Best Colleges, about 75% change their majors at least once while pursuing their undergraduate studies. College is a significant financial investment, and changing majors can lead to extended graduation timelines, additional coursework, and increased costs. This balanced approach allows students to enter college with direction and purpose while maintaining the openness to evolve and refine their path as they grow and learn more about themselves and their interests.

NEXT

Initial Research Process

Approaches to narrow down Major options

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