



What Should I Study? An Exploration of the Study Choice Process of Year 12 Students

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Making a choice about what to do after high school is an inevitable reality for secondary school students in their final year. It is also a reality that university students often withdraw from studies during their first year due to unsuitable degree choices.

Drawing from career decision-making and career exploration research as well as HE recruitment, marketing and retention literature, the project was designed to examine the Year 12 Student Study Choice process within South Australia from three stakeholder perspectives: Universities, Secondary Schools, and Year 12 Students.

A review of practice was first undertaken involving interviews with university staff and an online survey of staff from 118 secondary schools. Also, approximately 1600 Year 12 students participated in an online survey.

The data is being used to create a Study Choice Process model and a learning framework that can be used to improve services to Year 12 students, and to strengthen and better align current practice between high schools and universities.

Is the Year 12 Student Study Choice process distinct from career exploration and career decision-making? What is the nature of support from secondary and tertiary education sectors? In what new ways can high schools and universities provide support for Year 12 students as they work through this process? Findings from the Review of Practice and the Year 12 Student Study will be shared and participants will be invited to provide feedback on project outcomes.

This presentation will be of interest to Career Development Practitioners and secondary and tertiary educators and professionals who work with Year 12 Students as they make decisions about their future.