



# Interest Profiler: Are You Interested?

*by Troy McMillan*

**A**s individuals, we are continually searching for information about where we might want to work and how we might want to live. We talk to family members about their jobs; we read employer brochures or surf the internet, and sometimes we even have the chance to **job shadow** someone. All these resources are useful and informative but, believe it or not, our interests can say a lot about what we might want to do for work. The Interest Profiler, located in the Career Information System (CIS) portal of

the IDES website, helps you use your interests to explore a wide variety of occupations. Your “interests” are a good source of information because choosing careers that integrate your passions can be more satisfying and rewarding.

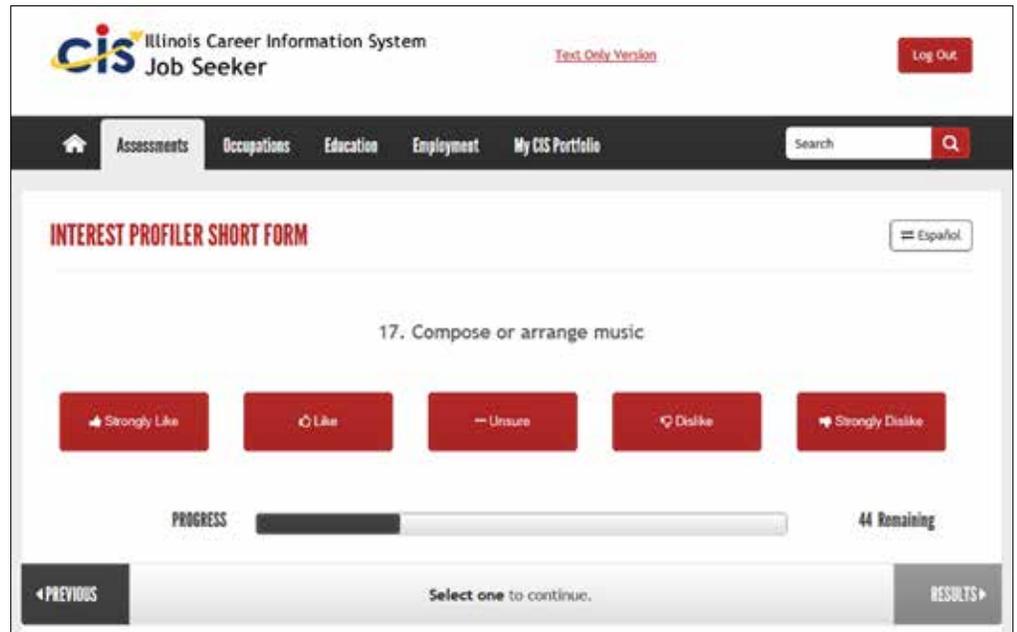
Interest Profiler is an **assessment** tool that measures your interests as they relate to occupations and careers. These types of assessments can help you identify skills and abilities where you excel and areas you might want to develop further. Interest Profiler doesn’t tell you exactly

**Words in blue** are defined in the glossary on page two.

what career you should choose, but rather organizes your interests into six broad categories of work called Interest Areas that you can research further. The interest areas are Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional. Use this **mnemonic** RIASEC to remember them.

How does it work? This free-of-charge assessment contains activities related to various careers. For each activity, you choose the response that indicates if you would like or dislike the activity. Don't worry if some of the activities are unfamiliar to you or require training or education that you may not currently have; don't worry about salary, status, or training. Just keep in mind that all occupations and careers are open to everyone!

An essential piece of the Interest Profiler is connecting your results to information about the occupations it suggests. After you've completed the assessment, CIS will display a list of occupations that match your interests. Researching the occupations that you find interesting or appealing will assist you as you travel your path to the world of work. Additionally, career assessments such as the Interest Profiler are a starting point, not an ending point, for learning about yourself. You are encouraged to probe questions such as: Why did my Interest Profiler results indicate that I was more social than artistic? How did the interests I chose lead to a high score in the enterprising occupational group? Your results can also point to areas in which you may have little interest but only because you may have little experience in that area. Interest Profiler will help you gain insights about yourself.



*Use the Interest Profiler to produce a list of occupations that best fit your interests. The Interest Profiler is available in the Career Information System Portal at <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/CareerInfo>.*

## Glossary

**Job Shadow** - is a popular on-the-job learning, career development, and leadership development program. You follow the professional you're shadowing through his or her work day and you observe the rigors of the job, the company culture, and ask lots of questions.

**Assessment** - tool designed to help people understand how a variety of personal attributes such as interests, skills, personality traits, and values, impact their potential success and satisfaction with different career options and work environments.

**Mnemonic** - a device such as a pattern of letters, ideas, or associations that assists in remembering something.

*Troy McMillan is a Labor Market & Career Resource Specialist with the Economic Information & Analysis Division at IDES.*