

## A Trusted Advisor

I often have the opportunity to coach freshman college students who are trying to decide on a future career. Andrea was a frustrated freshman at Florida State College, Jacksonville. She excelled in her classes, but she felt that her chosen major might not lead to a fulfilling career. She had chosen to pursue a medicine, but her heart wasn't in it. After probing, we determined that her parents had pushed her towards nursing because there were lots of high-paying jobs available in that field. She began to see why she was frustrated. She wasn't pursuing her dream.

After Andrea took the StrengthsFinder assessment, I inquired if she was the type of person whom everyone trusted with their secrets and sought for advice? She nodded. I asked if she had ever considered becoming an advisor or counselor. She looked visibly startled until I explained that her Signature themes suggested that she, with training and experience, could become a successful counselor.

Her natural talent of empathy and her ability as a relator suggested that she would care about and connect easily with clients. Her other talents including Responsibility, Deliberative, and Input suggested that she would be careful to gather information and then prescribe solutions for clients seeking counsel.

In a follow-up appointment, Andrea was much more upbeat about her future. She had changed her major to psychology and hoped to also pursue a Master's degree in Social Work.

Professor Brian Shore  
Gallup Faith Practice Strengths Performance Coach  
Strategic | Activator | Futuristic | Ideation | Maximizer