Parallel Major

a. **Complete MyMajors Quiz: https://odu.mymajors.com/quiz . This quiz is a helpful tool for you find your interests listed as majors. You do not need to choose your top result, but should consider all of the top results and research them.**
b. **List your Parallel Major. Your Parallel Major must be an undergraduate degree offered here at ODU.**
c. **Why did you choose this as your Parallel Major? What interests you about this major?**
d. **List some interesting facts about this major.**
e. **Research at least one career that you can do with this major and provide information on that career.**
f. **Create a plan for pursuing this major**
    i. **Additional classes required (if applicable) (Use DegreeWorks "What If" analysis)**
    ii. **How could you gain professional experiences to learn more about this area of study?**
    iii. **ODU List the advisor for this major (if Parallel Major is outside of the College of Health Sciences). Directory of Advisors website**

After taking the MyMajors quiz, I researched each of my results. After viewing the curriculum and the possible career paths, I settled on the eighth result: Cytotechnology. My top result, Nursing, isn't something I'm interested in. I prefer working in a laboratory setting with coworkers instead of patients. I'm more interested in the science aspect of medicine, not working with people.

I chose Cytotechnology as my parallel major because it's similar to my intended major, Medical Laboratory Science. Both majors are laboratory-based and focus on examining cells to help determine a patient's diagnosis. Though neither gets the recognition it deserves, doctors wouldn't be able to diagnose patients without lab workers. Pathology has always been one of my interests. It's fascinating to see how diseases and disorders affect all aspects of the body, even down to the cells.

Cytotechnology is a science that originated in the 1940s and focuses on detecting cancerous lesions not only in the female reproductive system, but also in the gastrointestinal, urinary, and respiratory tracts. However, scientific advancements have made it possible for most human organs to be sampled for lesion examination. The Cytotechnology major at Old Dominion University is a very unique major. There are only 21 Cytotechnology programs in the nation and the one at ODU is the only one in Virginia. Cytotechnology majors also have the opportunity to apply for two specialized scholarships from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the American Society of Cytotechnologists.

The most interesting career I found as an option with Cytotechnology is a cytotechnologist. Cytotechnologists stain and study cells to search for abnormalities that could point to cancer, hormonal issues, or other pathological conditions. They work in laboratories, either in hospitals or private practices. Most of the work consists of looking under a microscope and noting anomalies. They help doctors make a diagnosis by providing in-depth results of samples.

In order to pursue Cytotechnology as a major, there are additional classes I would have to take. These classes include General Biology II (both lab and lecture), Intro to Organic and Biochemistry (both lab and lecture), and Microbiology (both lab and lecture). I could gain professional experience in many ways. Firstly, I could talk to the director of the Cytotechnology program or students in the program to find out more about what exactly you do in the field. I could also talk to technologists at a Cancer center or shadow someone who works in a lab diagnosing cancer. My advisor would stay the same since Cytotechnology is in the College of Health Sciences. However, if I get into the program, my advisor would be Deborah Krzyzaniak instead of Barbara Kraj who is the advisor for Medical Lab Science.