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Choosing Your Major

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FOCUS

Make it Count

Brochure by Richard Rose, Kassy Fineout and
Fallon Willoughby

Choosing Your Major

The worst days of those
who enjoy what they do are
better than the best days of
those who don't.
- E. James Rohn

Your major should reflect who you are and who you want to be.

Just like any class you'll take at college, choosing your major requires study and self-awareness.

Here are a few questions to ask your self to get you started:

Is your major going to be your career?

If not, how will your major prepare you for life after college?

What expectations do you have for your career (backcasting)?

Does your intended career path take advantage of your strengths?

Will the major you choose require additional schooling beyond a bachelors degree?

RESOURCES



Institutional Resources

University department heads and professors – One of the most challenging issues when you are unsure of a major can be finding the right person who knows the answers to your questions. Who better than the professors themselves? They can give you information about the classes you would need to take, internship opportunities, and potential career ideas.

Recent graduates – Speaking with recent graduates of a major is a great way to find out more about the careers associated with that major. You can gain insight on what each student did to prepare themselves for the real world after college, as well.

Career services – Find out where your campus's career services office is. These offices assist with career and major exploration and guidance, as well as career placement after graduation.

Professional organizations – There are professional associations related to every major and career! These organizations can connect you to scholarships, internships, jobs, and networking opportunities.

Campus clubs and honor societies – Campus clubs and honor societies are a great way to develop an interest into a passion. Taking on a leadership role within one also looks great on a resume and can give you real life experience necessary for a future job.

Self-Directed Resources

Whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/ – This website can show you all careers connected with a given major. Learn about the typical career areas of each major, as well as strategies to make you a more marketable candidate. Not only does it show potential employers, but it also shows strategies for making you a marketable candidate, along with links to additional related resources.

Cacareercafe.com – This website breaks down the selection of a career into six interactive steps. You can also learn more about 15 unique career pathways and the personality traits typical to someone working in that career.

Whodouwant2b.com – Take the Who Do U Want 2B quiz to find out which career pathway might be the right fit for you. You can also view typical salary ranges for jobs within each pathway.

MyMajors.com – This extensive but simple quiz will direct you to majors related to your academic strengths, academic and personal interests, values, and preferences of academic environment. Upon completion, you can read general information about the majors recommended for you as well as careers related to the majors.

Similarminds.com/career.html – This career inventory requires reflection for 30 questions about yourself. It assesses your extroversion, emotional stability, orderliness, altruism, and inquisitiveness and offers suggestions or careers related to your personality.