

How to Select an Undergraduate Major



If you happen to know what your major will be when you start college, then, you're way ahead of the game!

However, according to national statistics, approximately 50% - 80% of college students change their major anywhere from one to three times over the course of their college careers.

With that in mind, once you arrive on campus, make it a point to visit your campus' Career Services Office and investigate their wide variety of career information resources.

Selecting a Major - Five Easy Steps

1. First, take a FREE career interest inventory assessment available in your campus' Career Services Office. Even if you think you know what you want as a major, a career interest inventory assessment also gives you additional options based on your personal preferences.
2. Second, if you start college as an undecided major, then visit periodically with your academic and career advisers to discuss your potential career options.
3. Third, once you have your assessment data, research your options using the Occupational Outlook Handbook, a comprehensive career guide published by the U.S. Dept. of Labor.
4. Fourth, think about getting a part/full time job, on or off campus, in your field of interest. If you're thinking about a career in healthcare, for example, work in a hospital, campus infirmary, and/or community health center.

5. And last...still haven't made a decision...then visit with your college campus and/or public library reference librarian and collaborate with them on a search strategy to find the best free print and online career information resources available. Also, include consulting your network regularly (friends, family, colleagues, faculty, advisers, employers, etc.) until you have a list of potential career options that you may also enjoy!

And, if all else fails, then select a major that you have demonstrated talent, can make the grades, and that, at least, provides you some modicum of enjoyment.

You'd be surprised at how many people major in one thing in college and have developed careers in totally unrelated fields.



AND WHY AM I GOING TO COLLEGE?

...Because college provides you with a baseline foundation to develop your critical and creative thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and communication skill sets, employee characteristics extremely valued in most of today's workplaces.

The bottom-line, regardless of major, is to get that undergraduate degree...preferably within 4-6 yrs.!

In the final analysis, "Do What You Love, and the Money will Follow!"