****

**How Do I Choose my College Major?**

Choosing your college major is a lot more challenging than you may initially think. While it’s easy to follow your passions and interests, there’s more to consider when selecting a major than just choosing a subject you enjoy. Today we’re going to look at the key factors to research when choosing your college major.

**Employment Rates**

While your first job may seem a long time away when you are just starting college, the time will come around much quicker than you could ever imagine. You want to set yourself up for a good return-on-investment for your college education. If you are spending thousands of dollars on your education, take the time to consider your potential career path. Research job market figures, and check out the likelihood of finding a job in your desired field. Sometimes just slightly tweaking your major may open up a whole new world of possibilities. If you study something too specialized, you may find job opportunities to be very limited after graduation.

**Your Interests and Skills**

Naturally, we all want to do something in life that we enjoy, but that can’t always be the case when it comes to working. If you are particularly skilled or knowledgeable in a certain field, that’s a strong reason to follow that career path. Pursuing your passions is also very important in life, but this must be looked at with a sense of reality as well. If the field you are interested in entering is incredibly competitive, be honest with yourself about whether this is a route worth taking.

**Salary Expectations**

When looking at your return-on-investment for your college years, you’ll want to look at the predicted salary for your major. Jobs that require extensive training and years of college often generate higher salaries, but that’s not always the case. It’s important to set yourself up with realistic expectations about what you can expect to earn upon graduation. Certain majors are far more desirable in the current job market, and you may find the high salary is a reason to consider adjusting your career path.

**The Workload**

Certain majors, such as the social sciences, are expected to write a higher number of essays throughout each college year. If essay writing is something you despise, this may be reason enough to switch your intended major. If one part of the course makes up a high percentage of your overall grade, when it’s something you don’t enjoy doing, this could ruin your potential employment chances. Try to find a major that you’ll enjoy studying and that allows you to continue engaging in other college activities or sports you are passionate about.

Choosing a college major that you are excited to study will help to motivate you through your years in college. However, it’s important for young people to be realistic about employment opportunities and salaries, to allow them to live a comfortable and enjoyable life in the future. Take the time to compare various majors for your time at college before settling on the one which will bring you the most pleasure during your college years.