There are a number of reasons why only a quarter of the college graduates have jobs related to their college majors.

First of all, Passion and Reality. When the students applied the college while they were in high school, they chose the majors based on their interests and subjects they were good at from the time being, regardless of what the job market truly needs. Some students studied very hard for a college major which they have passion for, however after graduate only to find out that the compensation and salary for this major related jobs were way below their expectations, and the effort and endeavor they have put in during college.

Secondly, Asymmetry of Information. When the students applied for the college, usually they would accept suggestions from parents, teachers or from their peers. Those suggestions were all from their own past experiences, some maybe even obsolete and out of date. As the students learn more and dive deeper on that major and subject, and talk more to the insiders and experts, they would discover and unveil where they truly wanted to be as a career path.

Finally, Job Market Fluctuation. Some majors may have a very hot job market at present, tons of job vacancies waiting to be filled. However, couple of years down the road, the employment need for this major maybe much less, since more and more graduates were attracted to this job related major, but they failed to factor in the job market fluctuations four years later when they graduate. By that time, the market was saturated by supplying more graduates with similar skill sets. The competition for entry level position was fierce, and most unfavorable graduates’ only option was turn to other job fields for opportunities.

In my opinion, the college education is all about the general and liberal education but not vocational education. Unlike the vocational education, the general education focuses on training the college students and gives them the ability to learn and acquire new skills and abilities to adapt to the new job and environment through their lifetime. With the lifetime learning ability and self-motivation, it gives the graduates with a college degree the possibility to steer their career to the best fits.