

## 1. Choose your field

The first step to becoming an academic is to choose a field of study that interests you and aligns with your goals and abilities. You should have a clear idea of what topics and questions you want to explore and how they relate to the existing literature and knowledge gaps. You should also consider the availability and demand of academic positions, funding opportunities, and career prospects in your chosen field. You can consult with your mentors, advisors, peers, and potential supervisors to get feedback and guidance on your field choice. ([From LinkedIn](#))

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Absolutely, choosing the right field of study is indeed the foundational step towards becoming an academic. Here's a breakdown of key points (**IA-REL-CPD-ITP-OBLT-LTV-CF**) to consider when making this decision:

**1. Interest and Alignment (IA):** Choose a field that aligns with your interests, goals, and abilities. Consider what topics and questions excite you and how they relate to existing literature and knowledge gaps.

**2. Relevance to Existing Literature (REL):** Understand how your chosen field relates to existing literature and identify knowledge gaps for exploration through thorough literature reviews.

**3. Career Prospects and Demand (CPD):** Investigate the availability of academic positions, funding opportunities, and career prospects in your chosen field. Some fields may have higher demand or better funding opportunities than others.

**4. Innovative Teaching Processes (ITP):** Consider the availability of innovative teaching processes within your chosen field, such as active learning techniques, flipped classrooms, project-based learning, or the integration of technology in education. These methods can enhance the learning experience for both students and educators.

**5. Outcome-Based Learning Tools (OBLT):** Evaluate the use of outcome-based learning tools in your field, which focus on defining specific learning outcomes and designing curriculum and assessments to measure students' achievement of those outcomes. Determine how outcome-based learning aligns with your teaching philosophy and goals.

**6. Long-Term Vision (LTV):** Consider your long-term career goals and how your chosen field aligns with them. Think about potential research directions, collaborations, and opportunities for advancement within academia.

**7. Consultation and Feedback (CF):** Seek guidance from mentors, advisors, peers, and potential supervisors. They can provide valuable insights and feedback on your field choice, helping you refine your decision.

By carefully considering these factors and seeking input from others, you can make an informed decision about which field of study to pursue as you embark on your academic journey.

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