

CHOOSING A MAJOR AS A PRE-MAJOR STUDENT

Prepared for students and advisors

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Proper consideration and research are much needed to select a major that has a balance between interests, opportunities, and a decent wage. Following the process of consideration will allow for a higher quality experience in the major and beyond. The following process presents things to consider before choosing to enter any major.

**KNOWING YOURSELF**

Choosing a major requires you to understand what your interest lies in.

## Considering your interests

Your interest in the subjects that are required to be learned within the major will play a big factor in determining if you’re able to stay engaged with the course materials or drop out of the major due to the lack of interest in the subject matter.

The websites that present the majors on the school websites usually have a rough description on what life in the major would be like, the amount of collaboration with peers will take place, and the courses required before taking the major. If the description matches who you are as a person and if it matches your interests or not.

## Know what learning environment suits you

Everyone has different approaches towards learning, so make sure the culture and learning environment suit what you like.

Research online material or interview current or alumni students who took the major, and ask them about the culture of the major, the pressure, the workload, and the degree of collaboration with peers are like. Then evaluate with the gathered information if the major aligns with your interests and personality or not. Then decide if you should apply for it or not.[3]

**UNDERSTANDING THE MAJORS**

Before applying for any major, understand what it takes to get into the major, and what is required to graduate from said major.

## Prerequisites

Prerequisites provide a basic understanding of what the major will possibly entail.

Ask current students or alumni from the major, how they believe the prerequisites help the journey in the major. Ask what their view is about the course materials. If the course materials match your interests and passion, then give the prerequisites a shot.

## In major course requirements

Major courses are the backbone of the major, so make sure those courses match your passion towards the subject before applying.

Look up online reviews about the courses and get a grip on what those courses entail and what you can get out of taking them. Understand how the materials learned from those courses will help you in the future and what job opportunities will be created if they are part of your resume.

**FUTURE AFTER GRADUATION**

Having a major isn’t just about the pride and prestige that comes with the name. It has everything to do with what the future will be for those who choose to walk its path.

## Job opportunities for major graduates

Knowing what comes after, is sometimes more important than choosing the major itself. Making sure the job is in line with your passion and desires is what will make your life worthwhile.

Go on job searching applications and research what majors the jobs that interest you require. If there is an alumni from your school that currently holds the position you are interested in, message them and inquire about what they did as a college student that made them qualified for the position. Consider their thoughts then make your own decisions on what major to go with.[2]

## Average salary of the majors going into the workforce

Not being able to make a living to support yourself is one of the major concerns amongst most college students around the world. Check out the majors in Figure 1 to observe the wage difference between the majors.

Research online articles and videos on the salaries of the majors that interest you, then decide if the salary is worth the investment of your time and effort that will be put into the major of your choosing. [1]

**Figure 1: Highest and lowest-earning majors**

|  |
| --- |
| A graph of a number of jobs  Description automatically generated with medium confidence |
| Source:  https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2013/10/22/239698749/the-most-and-least-lucrative-college-majors-in-2-graphs |

**References**

[1]NPR. (2013, October 22). *The most and least lucrative college majors, in 2 graphs*. NPR. https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2013/10/22/239698749/the-most-and-least-lucrative-college-majors-in-2-graphs

[2]“The Student’s Guide to Choosing a Major: BestColleges.” *BestColleges.Com*, 28 Sept. 2023, [www.bestcolleges.com/resources/choosing-a-major/](http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/choosing-a-major/).

[3]Witte, Brian. “College Tips: How to Pick a Major That Is Right for You.” *Time*, Time, 9 Nov. 2015, time.com/4103006/college-major-tips/.

Image from < https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2013/10/22/239698749/the-most-and-least-lucrative-college-majors-in-2-graphs>

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