

CHOOSING A COLLEGE MAJOR

WHAT IS A MAJOR and HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?

- A major is a grouping of classes that focus on a particular subject or field.
- Your major generally reflects the area of study you are most interested in and most closely matches your career interest area.
- When you sign up for a major you agree to meet specific requirements in exchange for a college degree (attend classes, do class work, follow policies, etc.)
- Choosing the proper major in the first place will be beneficial to you, but your major is not an indicator of your future success. To learn more about the major at your college(s) of interest - visit the school and talk to people in the academic department.
- Even though you may select a major on your college application, you are not locked in to that major for the duration of your college career. You may change your major at any time. Many students select "Undecided" as their major on their college application and then take some time making their final choice.
- Most schools request that you formally select your major by the end of your 2nd year (sophomore year).
- It is Important to remember that if you are changing majors, you must watch carefully for the classes required for each major. Additional time may be needed to meet all of the requirements for the new major.
- Interested in studying more than one thing - look into the college's policy on having a "double major."
- Truly don't know what to major in? Start off your college career as an "Undecided" major but be sure to attend a school that offers a wide variety of majors to choose from.

HOW DO I CHOOSE MY MAJOR?

- There are many important things to think about as you start to define your major(s) of interest: your skills, interests, and abilities; things that you most like to learn about; kind of job you would like; the type of lifestyle you would like, etc.
- Once you have gathered information, do some research. What are the jobs that best meet your criteria? Talk to people, read, job shadow: interview folks that are working at jobs that interest you; do what you can to learn as much as possible about the jobs you are interested in.
- Next step: Take that job information and do more research. What kind of majors do those jobs require? Again, talk to people: teachers, employers, alumni, career counselors, school counselors, etc.
- It is important to always remember: Regardless of what major you choose - in addition to the classes required for your major, you can still take classes in other areas of interest. It is not nearly as confusing as it sounds and you may discover new interests along the way.