



# High School & Beyond Planning - News & Information

MAY 2017

9th GRADE STUDENTS

## Majors 101: Frequently Asked Questions

A major is the **specialized area of study or program** at a two-year or four-year college/university, or technical college. Some majors have a direct connection to a career path. Other majors might prepare you with important job skills like communication, interpersonal relationships, organization and problem solving.

**Here are some examples:**

**Major:** *Criminal Justice*      **Major:** *Interior Architecture*      **Major:** *Health Science*

**Career Path:** *Police Officer*      **Career Path:** *Interior Design*      **Career Path:** *Psychologist*

### FAQ's:

**I have no idea what I want to study. How do I choose a major?**

At many colleges, you don't have to choose a major until the end of your sophomore year. Until then, you can take courses in a variety of fields. You'll earn general education credits that count toward your degree, no matter what you major in. As you take different classes, you'll probably find a subject area you love. Academic advisors and professors are also available to help you consider your interests and review your options.

**Can I change my major?**

Yes! Even students who enter college having chosen a major are likely to change their mind at some point.

**Does my major dictate my career options?**

In most cases, there is not one specific major required to enter a career field. Employers who are hiring graduating seniors look for well-rounded individuals with good transferrable skills and relevant experience. There are some professional fields that do have qualifying or licensing requirements; for these, a student may have to select a certain major. Examples include nursing,

**Do majors like English and Psychology get jobs?**

These majors are usually part of a liberal arts degree that builds broad intellectual skills, such as reasoning and judgment, and practical skills in research and writing. This general training enables students to adapt to a variety of careers and graduate programs.

Sources: [Oregon GEAR UP](#), [BigFuture](#), [Inside Higher Ed](#), [Pace University Center for Academic Excellence](#)



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**It's SCHOLARSHIP season!!**

**There are updates nearly every day!**

**Log into Naviance so you do not miss a due date!**

**Go to the [Colleges Tab](#)>[Scholarship List](#)**

## Did You Know?

Career Bridge provides details on nearly 6,000 education and training programs at Washington's schools, colleges, and universities. For example, users can search hundreds of apprenticeships, which offer students a paycheck while they learn a high-wage skill. This free, state website, [careerbridge.wa.gov](#) is Washington's top source for career and education planning.

## Myth Buster

**MYTH:** Majors = Specific Jobs

**REALITY:** With a few exceptions (like nursing and accounting), most majors do not prepare you for a specific line of work. In fact, some estimate that **65 percent** of college graduates take work in fields that are outside of their major or discipline. While this can be frustrating at first, it can really have its advantages.

The work you do and the skills you learn in your major prepare you for a wide variety of jobs and opportunities found in this ever-changing job market. It is no longer the case that people go to college to prepare for life-long careers. Think of it as job freedom!

## Student Checklist

**Check out scholarship opportunities in Naviance!** There are scholarships available for 9th graders but you need to actually apply!

Go to:

[colleges](#)

[> scholarship list](#)

**Explore your interest and research possible career pathways** and what kind of education you'll need for each one.

Go to:

[careers](#)

[> explore careers & clusters](#)

**Think about ways you might be able to get hands-on experience in a field you like.** Explore volunteer opportunities, sports, and more.

## Family Checklist

**Continue to help your teen explore careers and interests.** Talk to your teen about the kinds of activities he or she is interested in – it doesn't have to be sports or an academically-related club.

**Consider potential careers and try to find activities related to fields your student is interested in.** Consider activities outside of school in your community in the summer.

**Have Naviance Questions?** [naviance@everettsd.org](mailto:naviance@everettsd.org)



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