



High School & Beyond Planning - News & Information

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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: <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Major: <i>Interior Architecture</i>	Major: <i>Health Science</i>
Career Path: <i>Police Officer</i>	Career Path: <i>Interior Design</i>	Career Path: <i>Psychologist</i>

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, accounting, and teaching.
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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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.