

Picking a Major(s) and Top Ten Mistakes



Top Ten Mistakes in Choosing Majors

(1)

- According to Baldwin Wallace University, there are ten common mistakes people make when choosing majors. Some of these I agree with and the others I do not. Here are the following:
- 1. **Picking a major too early:** Some students are pressure into choosing a major from parents. They want to be doctor, so they push them to pursue Biology or Chemistry. They might want them to become lawyer and push for Business , Political Science, Philosophy, or Engineering majors. Most students should not start out with such majors without evaluating their desires. Do they want to go into this profession? Are they being pressure into this major by parents? Do not choose a major just because the field has prestige (Doctor or Lawyer for examples). You do not need to major in Biology for Med School or Political Science for Law School.. You can choose any major for both programs as long as you take any prerequisite that are required . Many people have been successful in other fields. The main thing is to pick a major you will love to do and can help you achieve your goals. This takes time to choose the right major (Goal will change somewhat in undergraduate or professional school). It is okay to be “Undecided”. (Give example).

Top Ten Mistakes in Choosing Majors (2-4)

- **2. Picking a major before considering others:** Most colleges have at least 20 or more majors at their college (some have several hundred majors). You should learn about different majors and explore what each one has to offer as a career.
- **3. Picking a major before taking any Upper Level Courses:** This one makes a lot of sense. Why would choose a major without taking some of the higher level courses? Technically, the higher level courses are more in depth and harder. These courses give the student more of a thorough investigation of the major. It also helps the student affirm their choice on the major.
- **4. Choosing a major you are not proficient at:** Example: Let's say you are planning on majoring in Physics for Pre-Med. In your freshman year in college, you manage to make Cs in both Low Level Physics 1 and Physics 2. You will probably not do well in Upper Level Physics courses. The General Courses help students learn basics and these courses are usually repeat half the material learned in high school. The Upper Level Physics courses will have harder equations and problems to deal with.
- (Give another example).

Top Ten Mistakes in Choosing Majors

(5-7)

- **5. Choosing a major you are not interested in:** This point goes back to the first one. Do not choose a major that your parents want. You need to choose a major that interests you and keeps you excited to some degree. (Give an example).
- **6. Picking a major just because you like one professor:** You may like your Philosophy professor, but this does not mean major in it. The major may not be useful in the job market and you may not get a PhD in the subject (Most of the occupations dealing with philosophy require at least a PhD). Philosophy is a field that has very few direct practical purposes (although it can be useful in any profession). Remember, that philosophy professor has been trained by their department to sell their major (Sometimes professors will make their course easy to lure future prospects).
- **7. Picking a major for the career prospects:** On the same note, you should not choose a major for just a certain career. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, people change careers seven times in a lifetime (<http://online.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748704206804575468162805877990>). You can find the right career without majoring in a certain major. In this day and age, careers can become extinct like typist and phone line operator. Keep this in mind.

Top Ten Mistakes in Choosing Majors (8-10)

- **8. Choosing a major for the wrong career path:** Why would you choose a major in Philosophy to be a Human Resource Manager? Yes, philosophy has attributes that overlap with Human Resource (Example: Ethics courses), but you should not major in it. Most companies do not hire philosophy majors in human resource. Keep in mind certain careers do require specific majors. There are some careers you can major in anything (Pre-med and Pre-law).
- **9. Selecting too many majors (I do not agree with this one to some extent):** This one I am half and half. One con of double and triple majoring is job prospects consider it overkill. You may become overqualified for a field. Another con is too many requirements conflict with each other in a major (Give an example). However, there are advantages to double majoring. Some companies want two majors (Engineering and MBA, MD and PhD) in order to be CEOs. Another advantage is Graduate Programs. They like to see students who demonstrate academic dominance and the ability to excel in various subjects.
- **10. Overanalyzing majors:** This one is kind of self defeating (The whole article goes into too many mistakes). The main point here is to make a simple choice based on some criteria (next topic).

Top Five Reasons to Choose the Right Major



Top Five Reasons to Choose the Right Major (1-3)

- **1. Choose a major based on balance between career prospects and interest:** This is one of most important things to consider. You choose a major that can secure you job within a year after graduation. You should also choose a major that interests you. You could decide to make a specialize degree (some college allow this) where you can two majors and make it one. The reason for balance is both career acquisition and interest will help you develop your career path more solid.
- **2. Choose a major that fits you:** This is slightly different from the first one. Choose a major that matches your personality. If you are analytic, choose a major that has high quantitative skills background. If you are creative, choose a major that allows you to explore this avenue.
- **3. Choose a major that you already taken some courses in:** If you choose to be a Business major from the start, take the low level courses in Accounting and Economics first before deciding on a major. Make sure you can handle the courses. If your college requires you to declare a major in advance, take the general education courses the first year .

Top Five Reasons to Choose the Right Major (4-5)

- **4. Pick a major for self-improvement:** The whole purpose of going to college is to learn skills. No matter what the major is; you are learning skills . Skills can be writing, artsy, quantitative, constructive, etc. Choose a major for the skills you can master and can further your dreams.
- **5. Above all else, choose a major with advice from others:** As mention before, no one should choose your major for you. There are too many factors on a personal level for someone else to choose your major. However, you can get advice from others about majors. Ask someone in a career you are interested in. Ask input from professors, high school teachers, human resource managers, etc.

Assessment #3 part 1

Look up this site.

- <http://www.collegemajors101.com/>

“Don’t sweat it!”



Assessment #3 part 1: Researching Five Majors

- 1. Watch 10 Majors w/ Highest Unemployment Rate:
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGzkhhKlm7c>)
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cbn21z7RX1g>)
- 2. Pick five majors that interest you and research the following items:
 - A. Unemployment rate.
 - B. Job Placement
 - C. Types of careers.
 - D. Top 3 schools.
 - E. Types of courses require in field.
 - F. Maximum Pay scale.
 - G. Job outlook. Will your field increase or decrease?
 - I. Satisfaction: Are people satisfy overall in this field of study?
- 3. Share results with each other and talk about strategies. (Live chat with me. Possibly other students.).
Approximately 2 hours to 3 hours.

Play the College Major Trivia Game (Required Group Project)

- You are required to play the trivia game.
- I will provide the website(for information) and rules for the game.
- (Live chat with me. Possibly other students).

The End

