

College and Career Guidance Newsletter for Families from SLHS



May

FOR FAMILIES OF 9th GRADE

Majors 101: Frequently Asked Questions

A major is the specialized area of study or program at a college or university. Some majors have a direct connection to a career path, like graphic design or criminal justice. Other majors might prepare your child with important job skills like communication, interpersonal relationships, organization and problem solving.

Here are some common questions your child might have about choosing a major:

- **I have no idea what I want to study. How do I choose a major?** Many students begin college without a clear choice of 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.



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

Did You Know?

One in three students will transfer before graduating from college.

Source: [National Student Clearinghouse Research Center](#)

Myth Buster

MYTH: Big colleges are best if your child hasn't decided on a major field.

REALITY: Many students think because there are more courses to choose from, a large college offers greater options for undecided students.

However, choices alone should not be the deciding factor.

If your teen is undecided, the best college is one that has core requirements or distribution requirements that help with exploration.

Also, look for colleges with the strongest academic advising and career counseling programs regardless of their size. Good advising can help your student choose an academic and career path he or she will enjoy rather than one he thinks he or she might like right now.

Upcoming Events & Announcements:

We are remote learning

for the remainder
of the school year.

We will notify you when new
events are scheduled.

We miss you!

Student Checklist

- Explore careers and interests, as well as majors. Complete the career interest inventory. Check out www.CareerBridge.wa.gov.
- Identify and research 5 to 10 postsecondary options. Explore careers, find a college, and a program. Try www.checkoutacollege.com/
- Explore careers and colleges using your Naviance account at www.naviance.com. See Mrs. Clark for help.

Family Checklist

- Help your teen explore careers and interests, as well as majors. Check out www.CareerBridge.wa.gov and www.checkoutacollege.com/



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.