

Tips For Helping You Decide On a College Major

In a perfect world, determining the right college major would be as easy as figuring out what you like doing best and choosing that. Unfortunately, part of growing up and attending college is realizing that sometimes the things we love doing aren't always the most practical choices for making into a career. Of course, this doesn't mean that you have to choose a college major that you hate just because it seems the most practical, rather, students should meet somewhere in the middle of practicality and personal interests.

Consider your natural abilities

Whether you're a computer wiz or a gifted musician, your natural talents are one of the first things to consider when determining the most appropriate college major. Your talents already set you up for success in college, which can definitely put you at an advantage later on down the line as well. With your natural abilities, you can already bring something valuable to the table that gives you the upper hand in a competitive job market.

Talk to professionals in your fields of interest

The best way to find out how a major could turn out for you is by finding out how it turned out for others. Although researching this through your guidance counselor or other staff members affiliated with your school can be helpful, it may not always be entirely accurate. For example, say you are interested in becoming a veterinarian, to find out how this major suits you, call veterinarians in your local area and see if they'll speak with you for a minute about what the job is like on a daily basis. This type of interviewing can give you an insider's look at what your major really leads to.

Take advantage of double major opportunities

The great thing about college is that you have so many opportunities to take full advantage of your education through changing majors, double majoring, and even triple majoring for the more adventurous crowd. This is one of the best ways to compromise what you love with what's practical. For example, your double major can include English and Computer Engineering, History and Business, Anthropology and Political Science, and so on. Double majoring not only allows you to study what you love as well as what's practical, but can also give you a significant edge over the competition. For example, a company may be more likely to hire you as a computer engineer if they see that you have highly advanced writing skills as well.

Be willing to compromise

If you aren't willing to take on the heavy load of a double major, it might be best to compromise your passions with practicality. A good example would be to consider

someone whose passion is in the visual arts. Although it's certainly arguable, Art may not be the most practical major simply because there are few jobs available that require this kind of advanced degree. You may be an exceptionally talented artist, but the best way to hone this skill would be to compromise through a major such as Graphic Design. In the digital age we live in, pretty much every company needs a good graphic designer and the job actually pays pretty well. The compromise is that you are able to use your creativity and artistic skills in your job while making money, which makes it the perfect solution to the problem.