

Choosing a College Major Answer Key

Visit <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/college-majors> and read the articles listed below:

- **The College Major: What It Is and How to Choose One**
- **College Majors: FAQs**
- **8 Video Tips for Finding Majors and Careers** (This article is presented as a slide show of videos. You will need to use the small arrows on the sides of the video window to navigate to all 8 videos. At minimum, you need to read all 8 tips listed on the slides. However, watching the full videos is strongly recommended, and you can read the transcripts if the videos won't load on your computer.)

Then answer the following questions:

The notes in purple below are based on the information found in the articles but do not represent a comprehensive list of appropriate answers to these questions.

What did you learn about when students should decide on or declare a major?

It's ok to be undecided. You don't need to know your major before enrolling. At many colleges, you have until the end of sophomore year to declare a major. Some programs require you to start working on your major courses in sequential order very early on, so declaring later may delay your graduation. You can take courses in a major before declaring it to prevent this.

What did you learn about how students should choose a major?

Take a wide variety of courses that appeal to you. Think about what inspires you, what motivates you, and what feels like a good fit. Be open to trying out new fields; you may find a perfect fit in something unexpected. See if you can individualize or build your own major if you don't find your fit. Ask people about their careers and how they got there to explore your possibilities. Advisors can help you choose a major.

What did you learn about changing your major?

You can change your major. Most students change majors at least once. Many switch majors several times. Even if you think you know what you want to major in, keep an open mind and don't assume you will never change majors.

What did you learn about the relationship between your college major and your career/job after college?

A liberal arts major gives you general training so you can adapt to many different careers. Some majors train you for a specific career. Others prepare you for a range of careers. Talking to people about their careers and what they majored in can help you determine what major will help you reach your career goals.

Based on what you learned from these articles and what you already knew about college majors, list 3 areas you would like to explore to determine whether a major in that field would be a good fit for you.

Answers will vary but should include at least 3 college majors, fields of study, or career paths.

