
How to Choose Your Major

The Brickley Center Career Services

Eastern Nazarene College
Contact Career Services for Career Coaching
617-745-3892

Updated 4/08

Choosing your college major is a big decision you will have to make at some point in your college career! First of all, know that:

****80%** of college students at some point in their college careers are undecided about their major. If you are undecided, you are **NOT** alone!

****You do NOT** have to know your major before coming to college.
Take some time to explore if you need to.

Choose Your Major By.....

1. **...looking** at the majors offered by ENC in the college catalog. Use a pen or pencil to cross out majors you are definitely not interested in, circling the ones you are. With the ones you have circled, please read through the course descriptions for that major. After reading the descriptions try to prioritize the majors in order of interest.
2. **...writing** down courses, activities, and jobs you liked in high school. What did you like about these? What college majors might tap some of these interests and help you further develop these skills and abilities
3. **...talking** to professors at the college who want to talk to you!
Professors at ENC are approachable. Ask them:
 What kinds of things would I learn about in this major?
 What areas do students go into after graduating from this major?
 What course would you recommend to me to further explore this area?
4. **...taking** one class in the major to help you explore it a little further.
Your academic advisor can help you with this!
5. **...setting** a goal for yourself to talk with someone who works in a field you are interested in (informational interview). Ask them:
 What do you do on a daily basis?
 What are the greatest demands and the greatest rewards of this job for you?
 How would you recommend that I prepare myself for this kind of work?
 How is the job outlook for this kind of work?
6. **...asking** people who know you well, “What kind of work do you see me being successful in? Please take some time to think about it.”
7. **...coming** to the Brickley Center at ENC and we can assist you in any of these areas listed above. We also have interest tests that might be helpful to you in your career decision-making.
8. **...praying** and asking God to lead and guide you through this decision-making process!

Ultimately,

.....choose a major that you would enjoy studying for the next 4 years, because it is the PERSONAL FACTORS that make a major right for you more than the current market for jobs related to it! No one knows what the market may look like in four years from now! At the same time you do **not** want to ignore the job market either. While you are in school be sure to get some experience through part-time jobs, internships, summer work, extracurricular activities as well as taking college courses, even outside of your major, that can keep you marketable in today's economy.

Resources

- Major to Career Converter: <http://content.monstertrak.monster.com/tools/careerconverter/>
- What Can I do with a Major in: http://www.enc.edu/org/brickleycenter/whattodo_major.html
- Occupational Outlook Handbook A-Z Index: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

Best Wishes!