

Majors and Internships: Academic Decisions

Find a major that fits your goals:

- **Research the majors that may interest you.** Talk to people within the major to find out more about it - teaching assistants, professors, other students, etc.
- **Enroll in a variety of courses early on.** A range of subjects will expand your interests and improve your chances of finding something you like. If you find an academic area you enjoy, consider it as a major.
- **Review your college's requirements.** Check the deadline for when you have to declare. Meet with your academic advisor (or someone within the major) for help with your schedule.
- **Be open to change.** Have you chosen a major, only to find out it's not what you expected? If you declared early in your college career, it's easier to explore other choices. If you declared later, meet with an advisor to research your options.

When do you have to declare a major?

Each college has their own deadline, but it is usually around the second semester of your sophomore year. Check with your college for a specific deadline.

Major myths:

Your major will always relate directly to your career.

Yes and no. Your major can serve as a gateway to opportunity in a career in that academic area, but it doesn't necessarily have to.

Once you choose your major, you will be locked into that major and a set career path.

Remember, changing majors and career paths is quite common. While you may want to choose your major based on your career plans. Changing your mind is always an option.

A degree in your major is all you will need to land a job in today's job market.

Internships or other work experience can distinguish you from the competition when interviewing for a job after college. It can also help you "test drive" a career, giving you experience with a low level of commitment.

FastTool: Major to Career Converter

Check out this link to select a major and see the possible career paths that are open to you:

<http://content.monstertrak.monster.com/tools/careerconverter>

Search over 600,000 scholarships worth over \$1 billion!
www.fastweb.com

Internship 101: Get Your Foot in the Door

You want an internship. How can you make it a successful one?

Where to start:

- Visit the career center at your college.
- Talk to your academic advisor about possible opportunities.
- Research on the Internet. Monstertrak.com and Internshipprograms.com are good places to start.
- Ask your parents, other relatives and family friends about opportunities where they work.
- Check for internship or career fairs on campus.

Prepare to compete:

- Do your research and apply early.
- If interviewed, come prepared with questions.
- Be able to clearly explain what you can bring to the company.

On the job:

- Treat your internship as career training or a job interview.
- Be professional in all phases of work, from your appearance and punctuality to work performance.
- Make connections with supervisors and coworkers. A good relationship could translate to a recommendation or even a full-time position upon graduation.
- Record your achievements and accomplishments. You can use this later to enhance your resume.
- Keep your eyes and ears open. How do you feel about your work? About the company/industry? Writing down your impressions will be helpful later on as you prepare for a career.