

# On Choosing a Major

## 1. Identify Areas You Want to Know and Understand

Success in a major depends on the right combination of interests, skills, efforts, and aptitudes. If you choose a major only because of its job possibilities and fail to look at your own interests and aptitudes, you will probably be disappointed. Broaden your horizons, explore what you find interesting—what excites you most.

## 2. Choose a Major on Criteria Other than Current Job Opportunities

Many college students, unfortunately, see college only as a vehicle for gaining economic security and mobility. Thus, they try to choose majors and a career on the basis of current job opportunities. Become educated, not merely trained.

## 3. Develop Flexibility and Adaptability

The only things you can really count on in the future are change and a continued knowledge explosion. Some futurists have estimated that today's high school graduates will be in five to seven different careers during their lifetime. Flexibility and adaptability, learning how to learn, and learning to think carefully and critically are the aims of a strong liberal arts education such as that available at BYU.

For some jobs, employers do not require a degree in a particular major. In these cases, employers respond favorably to applicants who have developed analytical skills, who have the ability to reason abstractly, and who have learned to communicate effectively.

Below are commonly asked questions followed by a list of resources where you can find answers. **Unless otherwise noted, you can access all of these resources through the Counseling and Career Center, 2500 WSC, (801) 422-6291.**

## How Do I Choose a Major?

**What majors are offered at BYU and what are their requirements?**

- Career counseling.
- Career and Learning Information Center: 2590 WSC, (801) 422-2689.
- University Advisement Center: (801) 422-3826; e-mail: [open\\_major@byu.edu](mailto:open_major@byu.edu).
- College advisement centers: See listing in current class schedule or the Directory section of this catalog.

**How do I find out what majors best fit me?**

- Career counseling.
- Career and Learning Information Center: 2590 WSC, (801) 422-2689.
- Counseling Center workshops.
- Student Development (StDev) 110, 115, 117: See current class schedule.

**What kind of career opportunities are available in my major?**

- Career and Learning Information Center: 2590 WSC, (801) 422-2689.
- Placement Center: 2400 WSC, (801) 378-3000.
- Campus departments.

## What Do I Do When I Get Stuck?

**Now that I've got my information, how do I make a decision?**

- Career counseling.
- Student Development 115, 117: See current class schedule.
- Talk with an expert in the field: Contact that department.

**I know what I want, but do I qualify?**

- University Advisement Center: (801) 422-3826.
- Career counseling.
- Student Development (StDev) 110, 117: See current class schedule.
- College advisement centers: See listing in current class schedule or the Directory section of this catalog.

## I Know My Major. Now What?

**How do I find out my major requirements?**

- Career and Learning Information Center: 2590 WSC, (801) 422-2689.
- College advisement centers: See listing in current class schedule or the Directory section of this catalog.

**How do I declare my major?**

- College advisement center for the major chosen: See listing in current class schedule or the Directory section of this catalog.

## How Do I Prepare for Life after Graduation?

**How do I find employment?**

- Career counseling.
- Student Development (StDev) 317: See current class schedule.
- Placement Center: 2400 WSC, (801) 422-3000.
- College advisement centers: See listing in current class schedule or the Directory section of this catalog.

**Do I want to consider further professional training?**

- Career counseling.
- Student Development (StDev) 317: See current class schedule.
- Placement Center: 2400 WSC, (801) 422-3000.
- College advisement centers: See listing in current class schedule or the Directory section of this catalog.