

What's My Major?... Honestly, I'm Not Too Sure

For the past 18-20 years, you have had no idea what kind of career to go into. Now that you are in college, faculty, peers, parents, and friends are constantly asking, "What is your major?" The problem is that you do not have a major. Or you have a major but you realize that it doesn't excite you very much. Does this sound like you?

Many students believe they need to enter college with a major in mind. The truth is that you don't need to know your major during your freshman year. While it is becoming more acceptable to be deciding, many incoming freshmen still feel pressure to make a decision. So, then how do you go

about DECIDING on an academic major?

The first thing to keep in mind is that you are not alone. Many students are unsure about their career path. Statistics show that 75% of incoming freshmen change their major at least once. Problems arise when you change your major more than once because it might delay your graduation date. To avoid this, take the appropriate steps to decide on a major option that best fits your interests, skills, and personality.

The first step is to find out more about you. People want to find a career that will bring them satisfaction. Without taking the time to contemplate what kinds of careers will make you happy, it will be like choosing a major and/or career by throwing a dart at different options. Using this approach, you have made a decision but it might not be one that interests you. In order to make a good decision,

you need to consider your interests, abilities, values, and personality type. Here are some questions to get you started:

What sort of classes do you enjoy taking?

What section of the newspaper do you naturally reach for (besides the comics!)?

Is it more important for you to have a career that makes a difference in someone's life or to make a lot of money?

What did you want to be when you were a child?

If you could do anything, what would it be?

By looking at both the past and present, common themes and characteristics can help you determine your true calling or purpose.

Talking to people in careers that interest you can help you determine if the career would fit you.

After doing some daydreaming on the above questions, make an appointment with a career counselor. She or he can help you sort through the many options available to you and to help you make a career decision that is right for you.

Remember that it is never too late to change your major or career. The average American worker changes careers 3-5 times in their working life. If you have doubts about your career direction, check in again with your career counselor to discuss your concerns. While you will spend up to 80,000 hours at work during your lifetime, you want to make those hours as meaningful and enjoyable as possible! Come visit Career Services today!



Quick Tip

The Early Bird Gets the Job...

Business bosses, in a new survey, say the best time for a job interview is between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. So, if you are given the option to choose your interview time, the earlier the better. The survey found that successful interviews take place in the morning, before the interviewer's responsibilities, and daily stress, begin for the day.

Services We Offer:

Resume Review

Career Services Orientation (SLU 101)

Career Decision Making Classes

Career Counseling Appointments

Job Search Presentations

Mock Interviews (videotaping available)

Career Resources Library/Lab

Career Services Webpage

eRecruiting (online database)

Career Search (research tool)

On-campus Recruiting (interviews)

Career Fairs and Special Events

Employment Opportunities/Job Postings

Career-related Work Experience (internship assistance)

Credential Files

Give us a call at 977-2828 for more information.

Ask Tyler-

A question/answer column responding to all your career inquiries.

Q: What should I wear to an interview?

A: It is usually best to interview in full business attire. For men, this would include a conservative suit with a white shirt and a non-distracting tie. For females, a conservative business suit is preferred. The blouse should also be of a conservative nature, usually a pastel color. Also, a minimum amount of tasteful jewelry should be worn. Most importantly, be comfortable in what you wear and make sure its "you."

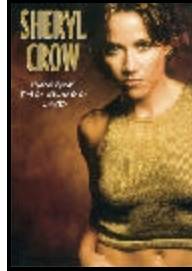
-Megan, Senior

Q: What is a cover letter?

A: The "Cover Letter" gets its name from its purpose. It "covers" the resume. There are basically two types of cover letters. The Letter of Application is used when applying for a specific position that is vacant. However, the Letter of Inquiry is used if you are interested in working for a particular organization and you are inquiring about potential employment opportunities. The two letters are very similar with only a few differences in the opening paragraph.

- Matt, Junior

To submit a question, email Tyler at cutrobt@slu.edu



Who Majored in What???

Directions: Match the following individuals with their academic majors

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. George W. Bush | a. English |
| _____ 2. Harrison Ford | b. Geography |
| _____ 3. Conan O'Brien | c. Economics |
| _____ 4. Brad Pitt | d. Journalism |
| _____ 5. Montel Williams | e. Business Administration |
| _____ 6. Steven Spielberg | f. Education |
| _____ 7. Michael Jordan | g. Philosophy |
| _____ 8. Maria Shriver | h. History/English |
| _____ 9. Sheryl Crow | i. Engineering |
| _____ 10. Kevin Costner | j. American Studies |

Answers: 1c, 2g, 3h, 4d, 5i, 6a, 7b, 8j, 9f, 10e

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