
Myths About Majors

Gathering Clues for Your Success



#1 Myth or Fact?




**Most students entering college are
certain of their academic major.**



The Fact Is...



**National statistics vary but up to 50%
of entering college students are
undecided about their majors.**



#2 Myth or Fact?



**Once a student declares a major,
he/she will stick with it.**




The Fact Is...



50-70% of students change their majors at least once.

On the average students change their majors 3 or more times before they graduate.



#3 Myth or Fact?



Students should choose a major based on the current job market.



The Fact Is...



Job markets can change quickly and dramatically. Careers in demand today may not be viable in 4-5 years.


40-60% of the jobs of the future have yet to be created.



#4 Myth or Fact?




Students should choose majors directly related to their chosen career.



The Fact Is...




**More than half of all college grads
pursue careers not directly
Related to their major.**



#5 Myth or Fact?




**There is a test or an expert
who can select the best
major or career for you.**



The Fact Is...




The only test or expert on what is best for you is You.

- **Take responsibility**
 - **Explore possibilities**
 - **Meet with career/academic counselors**
 - **Experience the workplace**
 - **Reflect on what you learn**
- 

#6 Myth or Fact?



**Once a student commits to a major he/
she will be stuck in a career
for the rest of his/her life.**




The Fact Is...



Majors don't necessarily lead to careers.


**Most people can expect to have 4.5 careers
over their lifetime and work for an
average of 10 different employers.**



#7 Myth or Fact?



**A student with a liberal arts major
will not be qualified to get a
really good job or career.**



The Fact Is...



The skills one develops with a liberal arts education are those most desired by employers:


communication, interpersonal, analytical and the ability to adapt to change.



#8 Myth or Fact?



**Students only need to concentrate
on getting a high GPA to improve
their chances of career success.**



The Fact Is...




Employers want to hire people with a good GPA, good interpersonal skills, and a variety of experiences.

- **Earn good grades**
 - **Participate in extracurricular activities**
 - **Complete internships**
 - **Work at summer and part-time jobs**
 - **Do volunteer activities**
 - **Study abroad**
- 

#9 Myth or Fact?



**To have a really successful career
a student should have a
four year college degree.**




The Fact Is...



If you have skills and knowledge you can have a good career—regardless of whether you have a bachelor's degree.

2002 – 2012 BLS expects about 56 million job openings.


42 million openings to be filled by workers who do not have a bachelor's degree.



#10 Myth or Fact?





**It is best to put off declaring
a major until a student has
all the information.**



The Fact Is...



- ✓ **Study, discuss and analyze your skills, interests and values.**
 - ✓ **Match them to majors/careers you think you would enjoy.**
 - ✓ **Gather experiences to try out some options.**
 - ✓ **Then move in the direction of your dreams.**
- 



**You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
Any direction you choose.
You' re on your own.
And you know what you know.
And You are the guy
who' ll decide where to go!**

– Dr. Seuss



So What's Your Next Step?