

## Academic Major Overview

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<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Marcus dreams of becoming an airline pilot. Emeka has an affinity for numbers and in his spare time he competes in online math challenges. Shante loves graphic design, website design, photo journalism and marketing. Sarah loves working with young children. Julio enjoys writing and illustrating graphic novels. Melissa loves meeting new people and she's always on the go. Jing Wei loves the legal field.</p> <p>Which college majors would be appropriate for these students? What should each of them think about as they evaluate various majors?</p>
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<b>Things to Remember</b>	<p>The coursework that makes up your academic major provides you with a foundation of knowledge and many of the skills you will need to function in your chosen occupation; additionally, by means of your classes you'll enhance your critical thinking ability and information literacy, and you'll experience personal enrichment.</p> <p>With all of this in mind, students may choose to take advantage of their unique opportunity to explore a number of areas of academic interest before declaring a major.</p> <p>In some cases, students already have specific occupations in mind when they arrive on campus. Perhaps they've volunteered or worked part-time in their area of interest which helped them confirm their choice of major. These students may have even taken certain courses in high school that prepared them for the rigors of the college level work that their academic program requires. For these students declaring a major may be a simple proposition.</p> <p>Alternately, some students have a variety of interests and are not sure which of these represents an occupational pathway that they would be interested in following. Since they are unsure about their future occupation, they may face challenges in selecting academic majors.</p> <p>It's important to remember that you have time to explore your options, take a variety of classes, and work with career development counselors to identify areas of interest to research and evaluate. Taking various assessments and engaging in meaningful reflection will help you identify the appropriate academic major to prepare you for the occupation of your choosing.</p>
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<b>Explore Academic Majors</b>	<p>Use the activity link provided in the FYE Career Exploration site to identify some academic majors in which you are interested. Then, use the Career Exploration worksheet to reflect upon factors that will help you determine if the academic major is suitable for you.</p> <p>You'll also find it helpful to make an appointment with either a career development counselor or your academic advisor to discuss your findings.</p>
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