

Myths About Majors

One of the most important decisions to make in college is declaring a major. A significant part of graduating on time is declaring a major early in your education. Read these myths about selecting a college major and career.

- 1. "I'm the only person who is changing majors."** Over 65% of college students begin college undeclared and over 70% change their major at least once.
- 2. "The best way to learn about a major is to take a class in it."** If you take a course, you know about that major, and if you decide against it, you can eliminate that major option. However, you will not get a refund, and your graduation year is extended. Instead, learn about the major by researching, reviewing class textbooks, requesting to sit in and audit the class, talking to professors about the course & connecting with a career counselor.
- 3. "Selecting a major and career are the same thing."** A college major is a course of study that is essential because it's an academic requirement to graduate. A career is an occupational industry you want to work in. Although some jobs require a specific major, your area of study would give you the knowledge & skills to enter various careers.
- 4. "The major I choose now will determine my lifelong career."** The major you choose will not determine your lifelong career. Studies show that most college graduates work in occupations unrelated to their degrees within 10 years. A major does not define what job you will go into, but your major will help you get the career of your choice by gaining domain-specific knowledge & skills needed in your career choice.
- 5. "Choosing one major means giving up the others or missing out."** This misconception puts students under pressure when deciding on a major. Students feel they'll miss out on gaining knowledge, that they cannot change majors or that they can only stay in one career forever. Career exploration is essential to discover your career interests, preferences, work values, strengths & skills. Students *can* consider the possibility of adding a second major or minor.

Ready for more major exploration & support?
Email career.services@fresno.edu to book a major exploration appointment.