

# The Top 6 Major Myths

## That Will Keep You Confused in College and Unhappy in Your Career

### **Myth #1: Your major is the most important part of your college experience.**

**Truth:** Your major is not your whole story! Your other activities count too, often even more than what you major in. Other classes, volunteer work, summer jobs, participation in student organizations, etc. all help you build knowledge and skills for life beyond college. Make sure to highlight these experiences when talking to employers, family, and others about what you're doing in college.

### **Myth #2: Everyone has picked a major – except you.**

**Truth:** Believe it or not, your friends are probably not as decided as they think they are.

It's comforting to say, "I'm majoring in \_\_\_\_\_," but most students change their minds once – or a bunch of times. This is natural! In college, new possibilities open up constantly, and many students realize that their first idea wasn't the best choice for them. The first few semesters on campus should be spent exploring your options and trying out new things. Don't feel pressured to decide. There are many others like you who don't know their major yet.

### **Myth #3: Choosing a major means choosing just one academic interest.**

**Truth:** With most majors, you *can't* study just one subject – you need to take electives and other requirements besides your major classes to earn a degree. This is your chance to indulge your other academic interests, take classes in subject areas that weren't available in high school (or delve more deeply into subjects you touched upon back then), and acquire a well-rounded education. That's what getting a college degree is all about.

### **Myth #4: To pick a major, you first need to know what career you want.**

**Truth:** Many careers and graduate/professional programs don't require a particular major. Also, with a few exceptions (such as nursing, accounting, and engineering), most majors do not prepare you for a specific profession. The skills you learn in your major, and through extracurricular activities, prepare you for a wide variety of professions. Some estimate that 65 percent of college graduates work in fields *outside* their major! Knowing what career is right for you takes time and experience, and it's okay to leave yourself open to possibilities as you go through college.

**Myth #5: Some majors are useless, and others guarantee a high-paying job.**

**Truth:** This is probably the most pervasive major myth. But there are no majors that guarantee a great job. First of all, what may be a lucrative, “hot job” today may not be so hot by the time you graduate. Second, finding a great gig after college is hard work, and simply majoring in the “right” thing is not enough to land one of these positions. Third, many, many people with so-called “useless” majors go on to highly successful and well-paying professions. (Just one example: Susan Wojcicki, the CEO of YouTube, majored in history and literature.) Finally, it takes time after graduation to build a fabulous career. Most people don’t start out in a high-paying position; they work up to it. Getting a great job is not as much about your major as it is about your skills, experience, and personal qualities.

**Myth #6: You shouldn't need help figuring out your major.**

**Truth:** You don’t need to go it alone. It’s not always easy to sort through your interests and options to decide on a major. It can help to express your confusion and talk through your ideas with an experienced professional. Aha! Career Coaching, LLC can help you cut through the indecision and take concrete steps toward picking the best major for you. [Contact Claire today to get started!](#)