

## Question 4: How Do I Choose A Major?

Question #1:  
What Is University?

Question #2:  
How Does The University  
Calendar Work?

Question #3:  
Is University Right For Me?

### Question #4: How Do I Choose A Major?

Question #5:  
What Do I Need To Go To  
University?

Question #6:  
How Do I Choose The Right  
University?

Question #7:  
What Are My Housing  
Options?

Question #8:  
How Will I Pay For  
University?

Question #9:  
How and When Do I Apply?

Question #10:  
What Else Do I Need To  
Know and Do?

**S**electing a major area of study in university is a multi-step process. When you are applying to university, it is more important to begin by choosing the *Faculty*, then choose your *Major*.

On your university application form you choose your Faculty before choosing your Major. This is good news because choosing a Faculty is much easier to do. A Faculty refers to a large, broad category such as:

- Arts and Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Commerce
- Fine and Performing Arts
- Education
- Engineering.

A Major is a subject area within a Faculty. Not all universities organize Faculties and Majors in the same way but here are ten typical Faculty categories and some of the Majors within them.

1.	<b>Engineering</b> is Applied Science. It subdivides into Majors, including Civil, Architectural, Chemical, Computer, Electrical, Environmental, Geological, Mechanical, Mechatronics, Nanotechnology, Nuclear, Systems Design and Software.
2.	<b>Science and Mathematics</b> is broken into Majors such as Agricultural, Computer, Forensic, Health, Environmental, Physical, Life, Psychology, Statistics and then subdivides again within those categories.
3.	<b>Health Sciences</b> has Majors such as Biomedical, Midwifery, Nursing, Nutrition, Radiation and then subdivides again within those categories.
4.	<b>Business</b> breaks into Majors such as Accounting, Administration, Computers, Economics, Human Resources, International, Management and Organization, Marketing and then subdivides again within those categories.
5.	<b>Communications Technology</b> has Majors such as Advertising, Design, Digital Culture, Game Development, Graphic Design and Communications, Information Management, Interactive Multimedia, Media Information Technoculture, Radio and Television, Theatre Technical Production and then subdivides again within those categories.

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6.	<b>Performing Arts</b> has Majors such as Acting, Dance, Design, Music- Vocal Performance, Instrumental, Film and Video Directing, Studio Arts-Visual, Film Production and Screenwriting, Theatre and then subdivides again within those categories.
7.	<b>Social Work</b> can include Majors such as Social Development Studies, Child and Youth Care, Family and Community, Addictions, Adult Development and Well Being. Social Work, unlike Social Sciences, is an education and training program for students who intend to do hands-on work with people and social issues in the community. It usually requires at least five years of post-secondary education to receive accreditation (Bachelor or Master of Social Work degrees) to lead and manage social agencies in the community.
8.	<b>Education</b> includes teaching at elementary or secondary schools. It includes Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions. It includes Majors, Minors and specialist designations. This Faculty can also include qualifications for Library Sciences, Guidance Counselling, Special Education, Co-operative Education, English as a Second Language, Outdoor Education and others.
9.	<b>Social Sciences</b> includes Majors such as Anthropology, Criminology, Geography, History, Labour Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Public Affairs, Religious Studies, Sociology and Urban Studies, among others.
10.	<b>Arts and Humanities</b> includes Art History, English, Classical Studies, Cultural Studies, Film, History, Languages, Linguistics, Medieval Studies, Philosophy, Peace Studies, among others.

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After you choose a Faculty, then you choose a Major within that Faculty. When you choose a Major (such as English) you are committing to take about half of your courses, over the three or four year degree period, from within this subject area. The rest of your courses are your electives. Some students may choose a Major and a Minor. A Minor requires fewer courses than a Major. Other students may choose a double Major. A double Major requires completing the full requirements for two Majors.

Also good news is that usually you do not have to decide on a Major within a Faculty in your first year. When you do choose a Major in the first year you can almost always change it in second year as long as you stay within the same Faculty.

**Dylan says:** *I'm going to choose Science as my Faculty and I expect to choose Biology as my Major area of study within Science. I like too that within the Faculty of Science I am able to shift my Major from Biology to Chemistry, if I change my mind.*

