

Question 4: How Do I Choose A Major?

On your college application form you choose your Area of Study or Concentration before choosing your Major. This is good news because choosing an Area of Study or Concentration is much easier to do. An Area of Study refers to a large, broad category such as:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Humanities | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing and Health Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce/Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fine and Performing Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering. |

A Major is a subject area within an Area of Study. Not all colleges organize Areas of Study and Majors in the same way but here are ten typical Areas of Study and some of the Majors within them.

1.	Engineering is Applied Science. It subdivides into Majors, including Civil, Architectural, Chemical, Computer, Electrical, Environmental, Geological, Mechanical, Mechatronics, Nanotechnology, Nuclear, Systems Design and Software...
2.	Science and Mathematics is broken into Majors such as Agricultural, Computer, Forensic, Health, Environmental, Physical, Life, Psychology, Statistics and then subdivides again within those categories.
3.	Health Sciences has Majors such as Biomedical, Midwifery, Nursing, Nutrition, Radiation and then subdivides again within those categories.
4.	Business breaks into Majors such as Accounting, Administration, Computers, Economics, Human Resources, International, Management and Organization, Marketing and then subdivides again within those categories.
5.	Communications Technology 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.
6.	Performing Arts 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.

When you choose a Major (such as English) you are committing to take about half of your courses, over the four year degree period, from within this subject area.

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7.	Social Work 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.	Education includes teaching at elementary or secondary schools. It includes Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions. It includes Majors, Minors and specialist designations. This Area of Study can also include qualifications for Library Sciences, Guidance Counseling, Special Education, Co-operative Education, English as a Second Language, Outdoor Education and others.
9.	Social Sciences includes Majors such as Anthropology, Criminology, Geography, History, Labor Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Public Affairs, Religious Studies, Sociology and Urban Studies, among others.
10.	Arts and Humanities includes Art History, English, Classical Studies, Cultural Studies, Film, History, Languages, Linguistics, Medieval Studies, Philosophy, Peace Studies, among others.

After you choose an Area of Study or Concentration, then you choose a Major within that Area of Study. When you choose a Major (such as English) you are committing to take about half of your courses, over the four year degree period, from within this subject area. The rest of your courses are general education courses and other 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. When students choose Double Majors they may be combining two areas which complement each other. For example, a Double Major in Peace Studies and Communications combines academic expertise with a viable skill for presenting that expertise.

Usually you do not have to decide on a Major within an Area of Study in your first year. When you do choose a Major in the first year you can almost always change it in the second year as long as you stay within the same Area of Study. Most colleges expect you to choose a Major at the end of your sophomore year or at the beginning of your junior year.



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