

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MAJOR?

Picking the right major can seem overwhelming for a lot of students. In high school, your classes were chosen for you. Now you get to choose what you want to study. This can be tricky, but also exciting: you get to choose the major that's the best fit for YOU. So what makes a major a good fit?

Believe it or not, there are only two things you need to keep in mind when choosing your major:

1. **What are you most interested in?** You will be taking a *lot* of classes in your major (between 9 and 15, depending on your school and major), so the most important thing is to choose something that you're excited to study. For example, if you loved your Sociology class, maybe you should consider that as a major! On the other hand, if you don't like math or science, Engineering probably isn't a good fit. Also, keep in mind the type of work you like best: if you like reading and writing papers, English might be a better choice than Biology.

What have your three favorite classes been so far?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2. **What are you good at?** If you're concerned about getting a job after graduation, your GPA is much more important than your major. A good GPA shows an employer that you can work hard and do well, no matter what you studied.

What have your three highest grades been so far?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SOMETHING TO KEEP IN MIND:

A lot of students think that their major has to directly relate to what they want to do after graduation. **THIS IS NOT TRUE.** Employers care *much* more about your GPA than your major, so focus more on what you like and what you're good at, rather than what you want to do after graduation. Don't believe us? Here are some successful people and their majors:

Conan O'Brien, Comedian: History
Bill Belichick, Head Coach of the Patriots: Economics
Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Leader: Sociology
Jack M. Wilson, UMass President: Physics
Mark Parker, CEO of Nike: Political Science
Ginette, Bottom Line Counselor: History

3. **Now, look at the 6 classes that you've written down.** Are there any majors that appear in both lists? If so, you should seriously consider that as a major. **Now, write down your top three choices for a major.** Your Bottom Line counselor can help you compare these three majors and choose the one that's the best fit for you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.