

## Career Connections Series

### **Worried that You Picked the Wrong Major?**

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Many students worry that their college major won't insure them a job after college. That's right, it won't. A college major is only one factor that determines your career path.

Your college major offers you an opportunity to learn about a field of study (e.g. American history, or biological processes, or theatre techniques). Your major will provide some basic knowledge that may be helpful in your future career. For example, a psychology student may learn about human behavior and work more effectively with the public because of this special knowledge. Consider choosing a major that will give you special knowledge in an area that you enjoy. This will help you remain interested and motivated to do well.

Many students think the special knowledge from a major determines the occupation they obtain. For example they may history majors to become historians. History majors may use their special knowledge in a variety of fields including business, social services, education, government depending on the transferable skills they have. Transferable skills include things like written and oral communication skills, interpersonal skills, skills in planning and organizing, or the ability to research ideas and develop arguments. Transferable skills don't belong to any one field of study, but can be developed with early planning with any major . The key to successful career planning is to identify skills most relevant to your desired career and to find opportunities throughout college to develop these skills. It's never too early to begin developing these transferable skills.

How do you develop career goals? Where can you learn about the skills you might need in a future career? And what if you're having trouble even choosing a major that you enjoy? Assistance with these questions, and more, is available at the Career Center in Room 185 of the Student Services Building. Staff can assist you with a variety of resources and services to help you get started in your career planning whether it's choosing a major, identifying career options, or developing your resume and planning a job search. Let us help you get a head start on your career planning.