

## THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A MAJOR

Students take note! To graduate, every student needs a major! Many students come to BYU without a major and that is okay. Even students who come with a major often change their major before graduating. However, it is important to start the process of choosing a major early.

- ✓ Some majors have more credit hours and require a longer time to complete.
- ✓ Some majors are limited enrollment, meaning you need to apply and be accepted into the major.
- ✓ Some majors require you to take pre-requisite classes before being eligible to apply.

*When in doubt, we can help you sort it out!*

University Advisement Center  
2500 WSC – (801) 422-3826

### MAJOR FAQs

***How do I officially declare a major?***

- Go to MyMap → Plan Courses → Tools → Change Major Request. This will send a request to the college advisement center for your major, and they will let you know if there are further requirements

***How many majors does BYU have?***

- Nearly 180. You can see a list at: <http://catalog2016.byu.edu/>

***Where can I find a list of requirements for each major at BYU?***

- <http://registrar.byu.edu/advisement/map.php>

***When do I have to choose a major?***

- You must declare a major when you have attained 60 BYU credit hours (minus exam credits).
- No student may change their major once they have attained 75 BYU credit hours (minus exam credits) unless they petition and are approved to change their major.

***Can I double major?***

- Second majors (except some language second majors) are rare and must be approved by the college advisement center supervisor and the dean of the college responsible for the primary major. Petitions for a double major must be submitted prior to earning 75 BYU hours (excluding exam credits).

***What are BYU's most popular majors?***

- They are: exercise science, management, psychology, English, biology, accounting, economics, communications, political science, and civil engineering.

***Does BYU have a pre-med or pre-law major?***

- No, you can have any major and go to Medical School or Law School. For more information, go to <http://ppa.byu.edu/>.

### MAJOR MYTHS

***There is only one right major/career for me.***

- Most students discover that they can be happy with a variety of majors or careers. Choose the one that you will enjoy most and get started.

***I must choose my major/career very carefully or else I will be "stuck" in a job I don't like for the rest of my life.***

- Most students will experience multiple career changes over their life time.
- Sometimes it is better to concentrate on building a skill set that is transferrable, rather than worrying so much about the actual subject content of your major.

***Employers are only interested in students with majors that tie directly to the jobs they are offering.***

- While it is true that some jobs require specific majors, most jobs require skills that can be developed in a variety of majors. FBI agent, airline pilot, event planner are all jobs that can be obtained without a specific major.
- Desired skills include: ability to problem solve and think analytically, communicate well with others, and lead and manage teams.

***Multiple majors or minors make me more employable so I should complete as many as possible as an undergraduate student at BYU.***

- Your major and minor are only one part of what employers are looking for. Work experience and internships also add to your credentials. Rather than completing multiple majors or minors, your time may be better spent gaining additional work experience or going to graduate school.