

Majors and Minors

WHAT IS A MAJOR?

A major is the area or field of study in which you specialize. Most majors require a minimum of 45 quarter hours or approximately one-fourth of the total credits required to graduate. Other majors require a greater percentage of the total credits, sometimes over fifty percent. Most of the requirements are at the upper division level which is at the 300 and 400 course level.

WHY IS A MAJOR IMPORTANT?

Selecting a major before beginning college reduces the risk of taking courses that are unnecessary for your degree. It helps you choose electives which will be most beneficial to you. Taking required prerequisite courses for your major during your freshman and sophomore years in college will enable you to enroll in required junior and senior classes at the appropriate time to complete your degree in a timely manner.

HOW DO I SELECT A MAJOR?

There are three basic methods of selecting a major. One is to choose a career, career path or technical vocation and then choose a major which best prepares you for that career. Another means of choosing is to become familiar with available majors and choose one based on the courses in the subject you liked in high school or college. Sometimes the choices are limited to the majors offered at a specific college, the only college which is feasible to attend.

OPTIONS WITHIN A MAJOR

Larger universities and colleges may offer options within a major. For example: (1) business administration may have options in accounting, finance, general business, management; (2) exercise and sport science, may have options in athletic training, fitness program management, physical activity and development, and applied exercise and sport science.

HOW DO I LEARN WHAT MAJORS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are many common majors offered by most colleges and universities such as business administration, English, history and psychology. Others are only offered at a few colleges or are unique to a specific college.

Browsing through college catalogs can be effective but time-consuming unless you have already decided to attend a specific college. Online resources including college websites which list majors may be a more efficient means to become aware of the available majors.

WHAT IS A MINOR?

A minor is a group of related courses chosen to compliment the major. A minor usually requires a minimum of 18-27 credit hours. Seldom does a minor exceed 30 credit hours.

Some colleges require all students to have a minor; other colleges do not offer formalized minors. If a college does not offer a minor you may want to select several courses in an area that could

increase your employment options. An example of this would be majoring in business and taking 18 credit hours in psychology with the intent of working into a personnel position or majoring in forestry with 15-18 credits in management. This could be referred to as an emphasis or concentration when you apply for employment.

REFERENCES WHICH MAY BE USEFUL IN CHOOSING A MAJOR

Peterson's Four-Year Colleges. (Forty-fourth Edition). (2014). New Jersey. Peterson's. These books are available in many libraries and in the Chemeketa Counseling & Career Services Center.

[Oregon University System](#) – Academic Program Search Form

[Career Information Systems](#) – Programs of Study and Training