Majors and Professions: Exploring Your Passions
A major is a specific subject area that students specialize in during college. In college, students should choose a major and take courses in areas that appeal and motivate them. Many majors prepare students to enter a range of careers after graduation.

For many students, picking a college major is not the same as choosing a job. It will be up to them to pick a career path they like. For example, a degree in English literature might lead you to a job in publishing, teaching, advertising, public relations or law, among other fields.

At most colleges, you don’t have to choose a major until the end of your sophomore year and even then you can still change your mind.

Help your teen explore the possibilities by asking him or her:

- What are some things you feel you do well?
- What challenges you?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What is something you always wanted to try?
- What interests you?
- What is your favorite class?
- If you could do any job for a day, what would it be?

Also, remember that joining clubs, working, volunteering — and even just talking to people — can help your teen figure out what interests him or her. You never know, these activities might lead to your child’s dream job.

Did You Know?

When applying to college, students often feel pressed to pick a major. What percentage of college students, though, end up changing majors at least once? 80 percent.
Myth Buster

**MYTH:** Majors = Specific Jobs

**REALITY:** With a few exceptions (like nursing and accounting), most majors do not prepare you for a specific line of work.

In fact, some estimate that **65 percent** of college graduates take work in fields that are outside of their major or discipline. While this can be frustrating at first, it can really have its advantages.

The work you do and the skills you learn in your major prepare you for a wide variety of jobs and opportunities found in this ever-changing job market. It is no longer the case that people go to college to prepare for life-long careers. Think of it as job freedom!

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Upcoming Events & Announcements

**HS Transition Events....**

**Summer Programing**

- Click here to enter text.

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Student Checklist

- Explore your interest and research possible career pathways and what kind of education you’ll need for each one.
- Think about ways you might be able to get hands-on experience in a field you like. Explore volunteer opportunities, sports, and more.

Family Checklist

- Continue to help your teen explore careers and interests. Talk to your teen about the kinds of activities he or she is interested in - it doesn’t have to be sports or an academically-related club.
- Consider potential careers and try to find activities related to fields he or she is interested in. Consider activities outside of school in your community in the summer.
- Review your teen’s high school class selections.

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Visit [readysetgrad.org](http://readysetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.