How to Choose Your Major in 10 Easy Steps

Choosing a major is a process that requires self reflection and obtaining information. Many students don’t know where to start. Here are 10 easy steps to help get you started on your career path and a worksheet on the back to help you document your research.

1. Make a list of things you are interested in and why.

2. Take that list and look at the course bulletin to find classes that match your interests. Go to www.stjohns.edu and put “undergraduate bulletin” in the search. Then click on Undergraduate Bulletin and choose any of the schools to explore. Be aware that each bulletin is an over 50 page pdf. You are looking for the DESCRIPTIONS of the courses under each course title and number.

3. Write down the programs that have the most classes you are interested in.

4. Look up the major on the website, “What Can I Do With this Major?” to educate yourself on different career paths. To find the link, log onto MySJU then click on the Career Services Tab. Scroll down to the left under Career Assessment tools to find Exploring Majors: What Can I Do With This Major?

5. Speak with your academic advisor about credits, pre-requisites and all the important course information you will need to know to declare or change your major in the system.

6. Take one or two classes in your intended major for a full semester. Evaluate how you felt about the content in the class, NOT THE PROFESSOR.

7. Connect with your career advisor to discuss internships and full time opportunities in the field of your interest and things you will need to know to have a future in the industry.

8. Continue to reflect on your choices and obtain more information about moving along in this major throughout the semester.

9. Speak with your academic advisor and declare or change into your intended major at the end of the term.

10. Stay connected to career services and schedule an appointment with your advisor to map out your path to career success.
Using the undergraduate bulletin, resources on the Career Services tab of MySJU and your advisor/dean, professors and peers, complete the questions below for each major you are considering. Knowing the specifics of each major will enable you to make more informed career decisions.

Major: ____________________________________________

What specifically interests you about this major?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Is it possible to minor in this area?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
How many credits are required to complete this major?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Are there opportunities for field study or internships? If so, identify at least two.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
List the skills you would need to possess to be successful in the study of this major:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
How many of the required courses genuinely appeal to you?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
How many years does it typically take to graduate?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
What do students with this major typically do upon graduation?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Does this major fit with my interests, personality traits, skills, and values? If yes, explain how.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________