



EXPLORING YOUR MAJOR OPTIONS

by the student editors of ***FISHING FOR A MAJOR***,
a Students Helping Students™ book

As you think about your most likely majors, keep in mind that there are many, many fields that you've never really had time to explore. Where else are you going to get that chance if not in college?

"If I had to choose now, I probably would have studied Economics. I hated Economics at the time I was choosing my major, but I didn't really know a whole lot about it."

**Computer Science major,
Recent Grad, Harvard University**

You may think you understand every field out there but you won't know unless you make the effort to venture into unfamiliar territory and explore all of your options. At worst, you'll spend a few credits; at best, you'll discover a potentially life-altering new passion.

Pay particular attention to fields that you didn't have the chance to explore in high school. Colleges tend to offer much broader variety than most high schools, and you may have never had the opportunity to study things like Sanskrit or neurobiology until now.

Use your school's course catalogue as your first research tool. Browse through the listings and force your eyes to pause on pages you'd never thought to consider. Are you an artist at heart? Peruse the computer science or economics section for more than ten seconds, if you can take it. Are you a hardcore statistics buff? Check out history or philosophy courses. You might surprise yourself.

As you explore new fields of study, keep track of what appeals to you. A newly found interest might not turn into a major, but you might choose it as a minor, or it might turn into a special project within your major. As you go through the process of choosing your major be sure to keep with you your list of "never-thought-I'd-like-this-but-I-might majors." If your college experience is at all typical, you'll probably end up choosing something you never expected.