

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel.

How to Support your Exploratory Student

Summer 2020



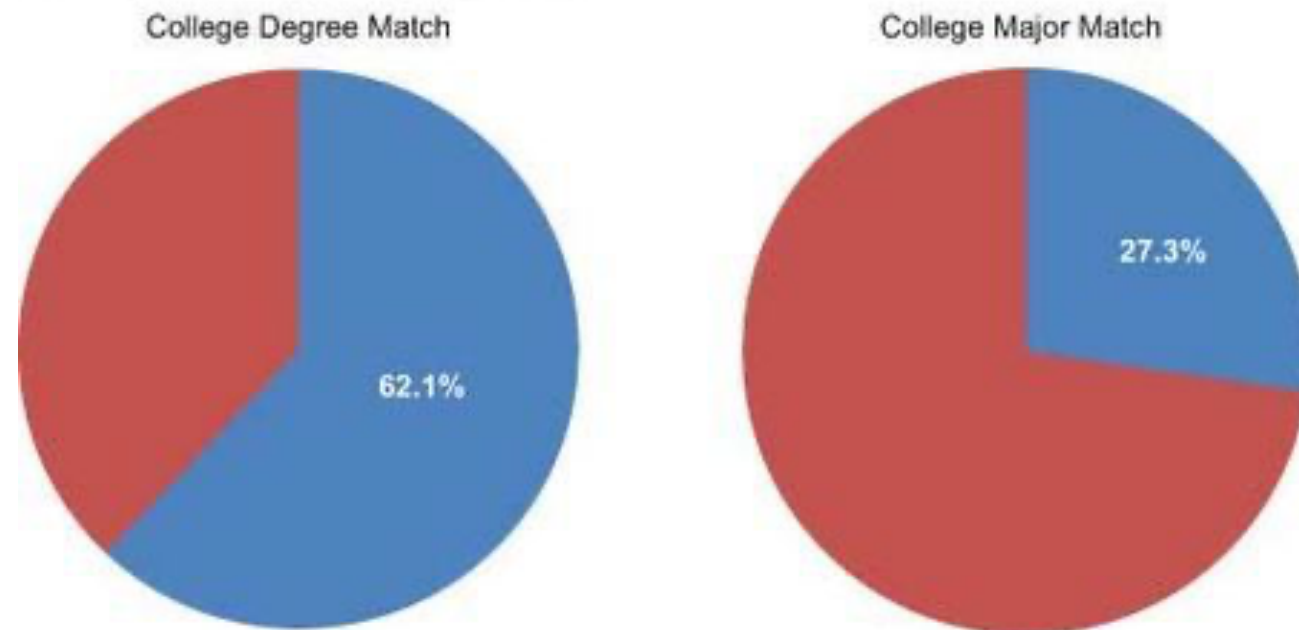
A student's college major determines her or his career path.

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False!

- ▶ 2019: 27% work in a job related to their field of study

Share of College Graduates Working in a Job Requiring a College Degree or Related to Their College Major



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 American Community Survey; authors' calculations.
Note: Individuals with graduate degrees are not included in the calculation of college major matching because the information available on majors relates to the undergraduate degree.

- ▶ A student's college major determines her or his employability



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Job Builder.com

“Want ad” analysis

- Communications Skills (listening, verbal, written)
- Analytical/Research Skills
- Computer/Technical Literacy
- Flexibility/Adaptability/Managing Multiple Priorities
- Interpersonal Skills
- Leadership/Management Skills
- Multicultural Sensitivity/Awareness
- Planning/Organizing
- Problem-Solving/Reasoning/Creativity
- Teamwork



LinkedIn Learning

What Employers Say They Are Seeking in 2020 Graduates

1. Creativity
2. Persuasion
3. Collaboration
4. Adaptability
5. Emotional Intelligence



<https://learning.linkedin.com/blog/top-skills/the-skills-companies-need-most-in-2020and-how-to-learn-them>

“....every company will be looking . . . self-management skills that will make people more successful in the future, including **self-motivation, prioritization/time management, stress management** and the ability to **embrace and celebrate change**. Those people who have a **growth mindset**, are adept at experimenting and learning from mistakes, as well as have a sense of **curiosity** will be highly coveted in the 4th industrial revolution.

In the 4th Industrial Revolution

These are
Skills we
TEACH and
LIVE by both
inside and
outside the
classroom!



Exploring the Options



Mindful and Contemplation
Initiative



Training and Professional
Development for PALs

- ▶ A student should wait to determine a career choice before choosing their major
- ▶ Students who explore don't graduate on time
- ▶ Asking your student if s/he has chosen a major yet is a good way to help speed the process
- ▶ About one third of all U.S. college students who enter with a major change it at least once
- ▶ Students who change their major at least once have a higher graduation rate



- ▶ A student should wait to determine a career choice before choosing their major **FALSE!**
- ▶ Students who explore don't graduate on time **Depends: if actively exploring academics, they DO graduate on time.**
- ▶ Asking your student if s/he has chosen a major yet is a good way to help speed the process **FALSE!**
- ▶ About one third of all U.S. college students who enter with a major change it at least once **FALSE: It is over 50%**
- ▶ Students who change their major at least once have a higher graduation rate **TRUE: students who don't switch think college is not for them and drop out.**



How Important is a major?



It's not about the job

The best data the Bureau of Labor Statistics has on how many jobs people hold in a lifetime is a longterm study that has followed baby boomers through most of their careers up until now.

On average, people in that study held 11.7 jobs between age 18 and 48. Jul 20, 2017

2006 Study

80,574 students - 87 colleges - 5 years

Good grades closely related to having a major close to one's personality and values.

Congruence predicted overall (GPA) after five years better than ACT scores (Jones, 2012).



Medicine

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

Medical schools accepted

43 % biological sciences majors

47% physical sciences majors

51% humanities majors

45% social sciences majors

who applied in 2010.

“Admission committee members know that medical students can develop the essential skills of acquiring, synthesizing, applying and communicating information through a wide variety of academic disciplines.”

“The ABA does not recommend any undergraduate majors or group of courses to prepare for a legal education. Students are admitted to law school from almost every academic discipline.”

Top ten majors with highest law school acceptance rates:

- ▶ Philosophy
- ▶ Anthropology
- ▶ History
- ▶ English

Law
The American Bar Association

Best advice

Both organizations advise prospective applicants to:

- ▶ choose majors that interest and challenge them
- ▶ work hard for excellent grades
- ▶ develop their research and writing skills
- ▶ make the most of the opportunities that come their way

- ▶ First-year students have a dualistic mind set: good vs. bad, right vs. wrong, yes vs. no, etc..
 - ▶ Believe there is **one right answer** for everything, hence only one “right” major for them.
 - ▶ Tend to look to others for the answer (advisor, parents, peers, and faculty) **rather than draw conclusions based on their own research, personal goals, and self-reflection.**
- (Evans, Forney, Guido, Patton, & Renn, 2010).

Developmental Stages Matter

What do students need to make a good choice?

- ▶ Self knowledge
- ▶ Educational knowledge
- ▶ Occupational knowledge
- ▶ Decision-making knowledge

National Association of College Academic Advisors

**ALL are cultivated in the
Exploring the Options course**

Active Exploration is Key



Exploit resources



Take an Exploratory course or
join a Career Services group



Do the work of Exploration

Positive Actions You Can Take To Support Your Student

- ▶ Support your student's decision to explore.
- ▶ Encourage a major choice that matches interests, values and personality.
- ▶ Reinforce the idea that exploration requires active research.
- ▶ Remember the value of the Integrative Core Curriculum
- ▶ Encourage your student to exploit IC's resources.
- ▶ Remember: your student's path belongs to your student. 😊

Ask Away!

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