How to Support your Exploratory Student

Summer 2020
A student’s college major determines her or his career path.
False!

2019: 27% work in a job related to their field of study
A student’s college major determines her or his employability
“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.
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%  **FALSE!**

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).
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
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).
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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