

# How to Choose a MAJOR and a CAREER

By Eric R. Anderson



“THINK about your CAREER”

Provided by Capital University Career Development  
Blackmore Library, Second Floor, 614/236-6606  
WEB: [www.capital.edu/CareerDevelopment](http://www.capital.edu/CareerDevelopment)  
EMAIL: [CareerDevelopment@capital.edu](mailto:CareerDevelopment@capital.edu)

Capital  
University  
Ask. Think. Lead.

## Is this booklet enough?

*This booklet and its exercises/information might be all you need in order to get a clear idea of your direction, but it's ideal to work through this process with one of us in Career Development.*

*We can help you best if you complete some of these exercises, and bring them with you when you come to meet with us.*

## A word about “choosing”

*I use the word “choosing” in the title of this booklet, and I do believe that ultimately you do choose your major, and you choose your career fields. But we do not “choose” to like things, and we don’t “choose” to be attracted to ideas, subjects, and work fields. Instead, we **discover** our interests, and we **discover** ideas that make us curious. This happens when we engage with life, and when we try new things! Then ideally we choose majors and careers from that list of interesting stuff.*

*This booklet is really about how to discover what is interesting, and how to discover what makes you curious!*

# How to Choose a Major and a Career

## INTRODUCTION

<b>Major/Career choice basics .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Understand these central ideas before reading the rest of the booklet.	

## LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF: *interests, skills, and values* .....

<b>Personality/Work Characteristics .....</b>	<b>6-7</b>
---	------------

Compare characteristics of your personality to the characteristics of a variety of work fields.  
Identify where you fit, then take a look at some possible majors that might be good to explore.  
If they don't seem to fit, try to figure out why. (We can help!)

<b>Career Clues from your Life Story .....</b>	<b>8-10</b>
--	-------------

Follow the prompts, and explore what influenced you during and after childhood. You'll find similarities, consistencies and clues throughout your life, if you look deeply enough.

<b>Which jobs would you choose? .....</b>	<b>11-12</b>
---	--------------

Rate a series of job descriptions, and compare them to values that you select from a list. Are these the values that you want to incorporate into your work? Which majors/careers match them?

<b>Careers and fields that relate to the work values.....</b>	<b>13</b>
---	-----------

Look at the same list of values in more detail. Which activities are typical reflections of those values? Assess the accuracy of your previous selections.

<b>Vocation &amp; Calling: a focus on Meaning and Purpose.....</b>	<b>14</b>
--	-----------

Many students are searching for meaning and/or purpose in life. This section provides a framework for examining and understanding your career plan within this broader context.

## NOW CONSIDER CAPITAL'S MAJORS .....

<b>Majors chart.....</b>	<b>16</b>
--------------------------	-----------

Review the general majors that you can choose from at Capital. Read the guidelines first!

<b>Majors grouped by themes.....</b>	<b>17</b>
--------------------------------------	-----------

A quick way to develop ideas for possible majors

<b>Brief descriptions of Capital majors .....</b>	<b>18-22</b>
---	--------------

This section provides a little more information on each major.  
Read these to narrow your choices.

## PUT IT TOGETHER

<b>Summary and Additional Resources .....</b>	<b>23-24</b>
---	--------------

# Major/Career choice basics

This booklet provides strategies and tools to learn about your “fit” with majors and careers. It’s best to begin by looking at your interests, skill areas, and values. Then compare those to the characteristics of majors and careers to find similarities and differences.

After making your initial decision, you’ll “try it out” by taking courses in your major, talking with people about your options, and getting hands-on experience in related part-time jobs or internships. This will help you to focus on choosing a specific career area.

## WAKE UP!

We are tempted to think mainly about what’s right in front of us, right now.

Right now, what is most important to you? Finishing a paper that’s due tomorrow? Wondering what you’re doing this weekend? Thinking about who might join you for dinner?

These things are not unimportant, but because they are more urgent, demanding or require immediate attention, **they can distract us**, keeping us from ever asking deeper questions about what we really want from life.

Desire for acceptance by others, safety & security, and fear of change (or fear of looking stupid) can keep us distracted. They derail us from thinking about our long-term goals and deep needs.

## Which comes first, the major or the career?

### Major First:

Some people believe that you should first choose a major that interests you because majors lead to jobs (as long as you obtain relevant experience during college). Also, they believe that you should be most concerned about enjoying your academic courses. They’re right.

### Career First:

Other people think that you should first choose the career, and then find out which majors lead to it, because the career is where you’ll ultimately spend more of your time. They’re right, too.

### Lifestyle First:

Some say you should approach school from an “education for life” perspective. Maybe you know who you want to “be” (type of person or citizen, or the kind of organization you want to work with, etc.) but not what you want to “do” (career or major). Then start by choosing courses that interest you!

*You can start with any of these.*

Focus on the one that makes sense to you now, but keep in mind that some majors **do** need to start in the first year of college for you to graduate in four years (see page 15).

**Most students change their major during college.**

Changing your mind and changing your major is *okay*. Between 2/3 and 3/4 of students change their major at least once during college. Students often realize they want to change their mind because of academic courses, their personality, and/or a work experience or volunteer experience that helps them understand or discover their *real* interests.

**Finding the ONE  
right answer**

Some students think there is only **one** career that is meant for them, but this is probably not a very helpful viewpoint.

You can get pretty frustrated wondering if you’ve found the “one right answer.”

Doubt can keep you from ever enjoying a good choice that you’ve made.

**Who controls your decisions?**

*Are YOU going to decide, or is someone else going to decide for you?  
Other people mean well, but they aren’t YOU.*

When you do make a choice, you will choose based on some connection you have with the major or career. The more this choice is based on **your** personal experience and **your** personal preference, the more likely it is to be a **good** choice. The more it’s based on *other* people’s preferences (parent, friend, or spouse), the more likely it is to be a good choice for THEM, but maybe not for you. Go to other people for ideas and impressions, then make up your own mind.

**The social comfort of “having a major”**

If you haven’t selected a major yet, you might have already been asked, “What’s your major?”, and not known what to say. (What *did* you say?) Not knowing what to say can feel uncomfortable. Saying “accounting” or “English” helps us feel normal and safe. It feels even better if we’re able to answer the follow-up question, “Whatcha gonna *do* with that?” It’s best if you’re okay with saying that you’re still deciding!

WHEN SHOULD YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR?	
<p><b>You should wait</b></p> <p>The desire to choose quickly (without personal reflection) might be an attempt to muffle your “inner voice”, which might be trying to tell you something important. In the long run, you’ll feel more certain about a well thought-out decision rather than one made under pressure.</p>	<p><b>No, choose quickly!</b></p> <p>If you think that it will likely be a major that requires all four years to complete (see page 15), you might want to choose the major right away, get started on your coursework, then evaluate as you go, and see if another option might be better. You can change your mind!</p>
<p><b>(Your personality might affect which works best for you)</b></p> <p>Some people are more comfortable waiting, and they enjoy the process of exploring all their options before discovering majors that fit them. Others just feel more comfortable having a declared major and will need to be actively pursuing the decision-making process. Either is fine!</p>	

# LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF:

## Interests and Skills

Your *interests & skills* indicate whether or not there is a good match between what you do well and what you enjoy. You want to maximize *both* of these in your major and career. If you enjoy the major/career, but have no natural talent in that area, you're not likely to succeed. If you do well in the courses and general skill requirements, but have no interest, you might be bored and miserable.

**REMEMBER:** You don't need to be interested in everything you're good at.

Same thing goes for careers and jobs. Find something that you can be good at *and* enjoy (and something that satisfies your curiosity!)

One way to find this fit between you and a career is to look at your Work Personality. See the related exercises on the following pages.

## Values

*Values* influence some of your most important career decisions: lifestyle, work environment, balance, family issues, etc. Identifying and clarifying values can help in deciding between a few different majors or careers. All other things being equal, which career field will best allow you to fulfill these aspects of your personality? Take a look at the "Quick Career Clues from Your Life Story" and "Which Jobs Would You Choose?" in the next several pages.

# Identify your WORK PERSONALITY

Read each of the descriptions under the following seven themes. Check the box by the statements that best characterize you. Record the number of checks under each theme in the “TOTALS” section on the bottom.

## INFLUENCING

- ☐ I am a skilled communicator, and I enjoy leading others.
- ☐ I enjoy persuading others to my viewpoints.
- ☐ I am impatient with work involving precision or prolonged concentration.
- ☐ I see myself as energetic, enthusiastic, and self-confident.

## ORGANIZING

- ☐ I prefer structured activities, and like working in a well-established chain of command.
- ☐ I like to know exactly what is expected of me.
- ☐ I am an orderly and detailed planner, and I enjoy using methods and systems for categorizing.
- ☐ I see myself as stable, well-controlled, and dependable.

## HELPING

- ☐ I am people-centered, and am concerned with the welfare of others.
- ☐ I express myself well and get along with others.
- ☐ I like to be near the center of groups and prefer to solve problems by discussing them with others.
- ☐ I see myself as well-liked, and achieving through assisting others.

## CREATING

- ☐ I prefer unstructured situations where I can deal with problems through self-expression.
- ☐ I enjoy designing and creating.
- ☐ I often prefer to work alone, and have a great need for individual expression.
- ☐ I would describe myself as independent, original, unconventional, and expressive.

## ANALYZING

- ☐ I enjoy complex problems and intellectual challenges.
- ☐ I like to be original and creative, especially in scientific, mathematical, or data-related areas.
- ☐ I like understanding various aspects of the world around me.
- ☐ I prefer to work alone or in small groups.

## PRODUCING

- ☐ I am practical, active, and like creating things with my hands.
- ☐ I like working with tools and instruments.
- ☐ I value seeing the direct results of my work and dislike vagueness and ambiguity.
- ☐ I need to see tangible, real outcomes from my work.

## ADVENTURING

- ☐ I am adventurous, active, and competitive.
- ☐ I have good physical skills and enjoy taking risks in my activities.
- ☐ I enjoy challenging myself and have a strong sense of discipline and commitment.
- ☐ I am determined, energetic, and I seek excitement.

## TOTALS:

Influencing \_\_\_\_\_ Organizing \_\_\_\_\_ Helping \_\_\_\_\_ Creating \_\_\_\_\_  
Analyzing \_\_\_\_\_ Producing \_\_\_\_\_ Adventuring \_\_\_\_\_

*[Based on the Campbell Interest and Skill Survey (CISS), Dr. David Campbell & Pearson Assessments]*

**(Continued on next page)**

# Matching Majors for WORK PERSONALITIES

*You can choose more than one characteristic; these can usually be combined.*

*Think about careers and majors that **blend** these aspects of your “self”.*

INFLUENCING	CREATING
Business Management Communication Emerging Media International Studies Marketing Organizational Communication Political Science Public Relations Strategic Influence and Civic Leadership	Art Communication Emerging Media English Film & Media Production French and Spanish Marketing Music & Music Technology Public Relations Theatre
ORGANIZING	ANALYZING
Accounting Business Management Computer Science (programming) Emerging Media Organizational Communication Sociology (urban planning)	Biology & Environmental Science Chemistry Computer Science (systems) Criminology (criminal investigation) Economics English Exercise Science Finance History Mathematics Nursing Philosophy Political Science Psychology (research) Religion (theology) Sociology (research)
HELPING	
Art Therapy Business Management (human resources) Criminology (probation, case work) Education Nursing Psychology (counseling) Religion (youth ministry) Social Work Sociology (case work) Strategic Influence and Civic Leadership	
PRODUCING	ADVENTURING
Exercise Science Music Technology	Criminology (law enforcement) Health & Sport Sciences

- Do these seem to fit your characteristics from the previous page?
- If not, which groups of fields OR individual fields seem to be most “like” you?
- Do you know which majors would lead to those fields? Ask for ideas in Career Development.



# QUICK CAREER CLUES

## from your LIFE STORY

Many people find that their lives have been filled with important clues about the careers they chose. In this exercise you'll pursue some of these important clues as you jot down notes about the things you have enjoyed, valued, and have been "good at" both recently and when you were younger.

### You can learn a lot about yourself by reflecting on your life:

- What you were curious about, noticed, or paid attention to
- *How* you played (for example, did you play in the sandbox to be with friends, to be alone, to use your imagination, to think, to build things...?)
- How you've made sense out of your *interactions with others* during your early life and now.
- Your *natural skills & talents* (e.g., sensitivity, organization, drawing, public speaking, etc.)
- The ways that your interests and curiosities have revealed clues.
- What you have *dreamed* of doing

### How to use the Life Story

Starting on the next page, jot down your ideas in the spaces provided. You don't have to fill in all the spaces, and you don't have to respond to every item. But you can also use another page if you need more space.

Then schedule an appointment and bring this booklet so you can share your responses!

### Major/career choice is a journey, not just a destination.

Resist the temptation to look for a "test" or "survey" that will "tell" you what your major or career will be. Test results *alone* can be deceptive.

If I had known as a college student that I would enjoy being the director of a career development office, I would have looked for the straightest, most obvious "path" to that end. But it's precisely because of my indirect journey that I obtained some of the experience that made my move to this position possible (including work as a chemist!). The same might be true for you.

-Eric

**TAKE ABOUT 10-15 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE NEXT TWO PAGES**

**EARLY AWARENESS**

**What were you curious about when you were very young** (maybe even so young that you weren't aware of anyone judging or influencing you and your interests)?

- 
- 
- 

**What questions did you ask about those things that you were curious about?**

- 
- 
- 

**What occupations were you aware of (your parents, other adults in your life)?**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • | • |
| • | • |
| • | • |

What did you learn about those occupations, and the everyday lives & personalities of the people in them?

- 
- 

Which people were you “similar to”? Has that changed?

- 
- 

**THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE**

**Think about your mentors, role models, heroes or the characters who inspired you. They might have been teachers, school counselors, coaches, family members, characters in books, movies or TV.**

In what ways did they inspire you?

- 
- 
- 

In what ways did you want to be “like them”, and what specifically did that mean?

- 
- 
- 

(continued next page...)

**When/where have you felt that you were “making a difference”, or doing something that provided a sense of meaning and purpose?** (This does NOT need to be volunteer work! It could relate to any involvement in any workplace, community, social group, etc.)

- 
- 
- 

**When have you been “in the zone”, or felt as though your life was in “flow”?** (Like when you’ve been so focused and involved in something that you’ve lost track of time)

- 
- 
- 

## THINKING FORWARD

**What if you won the lottery and didn’t need a job or career for the money, or what if you could do anything and weren’t afraid of failure or limitations? What would you choose to do with your time (maybe after you become bored from binge-watching Netflix for a month)?**

- 
- 
- 

**If you could change something about the world, what would it be? Why? What might you do that could begin to make that change in the world possible, or make it possible in a small way, or on a small scale?**

- 
- 
- 

When you finish this, schedule an appointment (through Handshake, or email [CareerDevelopment@capital.edu](mailto:CareerDevelopment@capital.edu)) and bring this booklet with you.

# Which jobs would you choose? PART ONE

*Indicate your preference for these jobs: Yes, Maybe, or No*

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. An opportunity to work with and help people in a personal way. Meet and deal with the public in a meaningful relationship. Help to make the world a better place to live.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Do your own thing! Work with abstract ideas. Develop new ideas and things. Non-routine. A chance to work on your own or as a member of a creative team. Flexible working conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. A professional position. Position of responsibility. Secretarial assistance provided. Pay dependent upon experience and initiative. Position requires high level of education or training. Job benefits are high pay and public recognition.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. A job with a guaranteed annual salary in a permanent position with a secure and stable company. Supervisory assistance is available. Position guarantees cost of living pay increases annually. Retirement benefits.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Looking for an interesting job? One that requires research, thinking, and problem solving? Do you like to deal with theoretical concepts? This job demands constant updating of information and ability to deal with new ideas. An opportunity to work with creative and intellectually stimulating people.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. This job requires an extraordinary person. The job demands risk-taking. Ability to deal with exciting tasks. Excellent physical health a necessity. You must be willing to travel.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. An ideal place to work with others. An opportunity to work with people you really like, and just as important, who really like you. A friendly congenial atmosphere. Get to really know your co-workers.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. You can make a difference...your skills and the great needs of the world intersect here! Opportunity to express your inner self in your job. Integrate your belief system into your work.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Set your own pace! Set your own working conditions. Flexible hours. Choose your own team or work alone. Supervision available if you wish.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Hard work is rewarded! Start at the bottom and work your way up. Quality and productivity will be rewarded by rapid advancement and recognition of a job well done.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Direct the work tasks of others in a variety of activities. Leadership qualities in controlling work force and maintaining production schedules. Ability to maintain a stable work force. Coordinate work of people, data, and things. Instruct work force. Evaluate work completed. Hiring and firing responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. Opportunity for money! Your effort pays off with a very high salary, extra pay for extra work, and an annual bonus. We pay for the work you do!

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Are you tired of a dull routine job? This position allows you to work with varied tasks, meet new people, work in a wide range of situations and settings. You are a Jack-of-All-Trades and can satisfy your many interests.

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Does the thought of a desk job turn you off? This job is for the "doing" person who enjoys using energy and physical abilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Work in a young, fast-growing company. Great opportunity for advancement to mid-management and upper-management. The only limitation is **your** energy and initiative.

# Which jobs would you choose?, PART TWO

Circle your top work values (and if it makes it easier, change some of the words):

## 1. Service

Active in community  
Help others directly  
Provide practical assistance

## 2. Creativity

Aesthetic appreciation  
Artistic creativity  
Creative expression  
Develop & express new ideas

## 3. Prestige

Recognition  
Status  
Respect

## 4. Security

Stability/Predictability  
Low pressure  
Job assurance  
Live in a familiar location

## 5. Intellectual Challenge

Address challenging problems  
Pursue/obtain knowledge  
Acknowledged "expert"  
Research & development

## 6. Adventure

Excitement & risk taking  
Travel, or exotic locations  
Drama

## 7. Relationships

Organization affiliation  
Work friendships  
Family  
Work with others (teamwork)  
Public contact

## 8. Meaning and Purpose

Making a difference  
Personal fulfillment  
Work relates to ideals

## 9. Independence

Time freedom  
Autonomy  
Work alone

## 10. Productivity

Competence & Proficiency  
Fast-paced work  
Efficient work habits

## 11. Leadership

Influence people & opinions  
Supervise others  
Power, Authority, & Control  
Make decisions

## 12. Financial Rewards

High earnings  
Commission-based work  
Ability to own nice things

## 13. Variety

Changing work responsibilities  
Diversity of tasks  
New projects

## 14. Physical Activity

Outdoor work  
Physical challenge  
Physical fitness

## 15. Advancement

Promotions  
Work under pressure  
Competition

## CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS

### 1. Do the work values above match the major(s)/careers that you're considering?

If "yes", in what ways do they fit? If "no", what seems to be missing?

Notice the numbers of the jobs (Part One) and the values (Part Two, above)

(They match directly: for example, job #5 on page 11 is about work value #5 on this page)

### 2. Are the job numbers from Part One the same as the work value numbers above?

If they're not the same, do you know why not? If you don't know, we can help you clarify your values before deciding!

# Careers and fields that relate to the work values

<b>1. Service</b> <p>This is doing things for others because it feels like the right thing to do. Often, jobs related to this value will be for non-profit groups that focus on human rights, civil rights, environmental concerns, and related areas. Remember that you <b>do get paid</b> when working for a non-profit!</p>	<b>6. Adventure</b> <p>Law enforcement and the military are two related areas that generally require college education. Otherwise, careers that require special experience or training are wilderness guide, sky diving instructor, ski instructor, test pilot, crocodile wrestler...</p>	<b>11. Leadership</b> <p>The issue here is “leadership over what?” or “leadership over whom?” Answering that question can help with direction (e.g., if you want to lead others, be sure to get supervisory experience early). Typical areas might be political, entrepreneurial, legal, and specific decision-making areas of business.</p>
<b>2. Creativity</b> <p>You can find some way of being creative whenever you have a supportive supervisor. Examples of fields linked most closely with this value include teaching, advertising, marketing, art, public relations, and free-lance writing.</p>	<b>7. Relationships</b> <p>Depends on where you work! Co-worker relations turn out to be the second biggest factor in job satisfaction (quality of supervisor relationship comes first). The content of the job itself ranks a distant third.</p>	<b>12. Financial Rewards</b> <p>If this is a major priority, you should consider sales. Most will make enough money for their needs. Few people make enough money for their wants. Typical areas where higher incomes start early are sales, accounting, computer science, and nursing.</p>
<b>3. Prestige</b> <p>It really depends on what you consider to be prestigious. Common stereotypical examples might be physician and attorney, but so many others (like teacher) have this quality, too!</p>	<b>8. Meaning and Purpose</b> <p>This usually refers to “making a difference through a connection between your ideals/beliefs and your job. It’s similar to service, but this is more personal. It often relates to beliefs that correspond to “your reason for being here”.</p>	<b>13. Variety</b> <p>This depends on the supervisor and/or workplace. It’s often associated with smaller organizations where people assume several work roles.</p>
<b>4. Security</b> <p>Consider career fields that are in high demand, like accounting, computer science and nursing. Some levels of government have positions that are also considered to be stable.</p>	<b>9. Independence</b> <p>This depends on the supervisor and/or workplace. Ask questions about it in your job interviews. We can help with this!</p>	<b>14. Physical Activity</b> <p>Health &amp; Fitness, Exercise Science, Sports Medicine, Military, Nursing, and a whole bunch that don’t relate to college majors (building roads, laying pipe, framing houses, pouring concrete...)</p>
<b>5. Intellectual Challenge</b> <p>Any job where you get to think about complex issues without worrying about making stockholders happy is a possible fit with this value. In the general work world, it is most typical in research, science and education.</p>	<b>10. Productivity</b> <p>Everyone has the opportunity to be productive at their job. It depends on you!</p>	<b>15. Advancement</b> <p>Not related to specific careers, for the most part. Often associated with young, growing companies.</p>

# Vocation & Calling

## What do you want to focus on?

Skills = **Job**

Skills + Interests = **Career**

Skills + Interests + Meaning & Purpose = **Vocation**

## Do you need this?

Focusing on meaning and purpose in your career is not *necessary* in order to find a job; you can just look at what you do well, and then get a job that uses those skills. You can even pursue a job that you *enjoy* without focusing on meaning and purpose.

## So, why should you care?

You change and discover things when you choose to pursue meaning and purpose. Then “what you do” becomes intimately connected to “who you are.”

### Find your center:

What is your deepest gladness, your deepest needs, the work that you need most to do?

### Look around you.

What work does the world need most to have done? What is the world’s deepest hunger that calls to you?

### Pay attention.

Become aware of the places where your deep needs and the world’s needs intersect.

## VOCATION or OCCUPATION?

“When I was in high school I had a job delivering groceries. One day late in June I delivered groceries to the home of the man who coached football at the college in our town. I knew him slightly because his daughter was in my high school class. After I had set the grocery bags on the kitchen counter I turned to leave, but he grabbed me by the arm and said, “Come here, there’s something I want to show you.” He ushered me into the living room, peeled back a corner of the carpet and pulled out a pile of papers which he spread out on the floor. I immediately recognized these were football plays he had diagrammed for the fall season. We both got down on our knees as he excitedly explained to me his new formations, new ideas for variations on standard plays, plans for the new season, etc. Twenty minutes later when I pried myself away to return to work he called my boss to explain that he had been responsible for delaying my return.

“He inspired me that day, not to become a football coach, but to find an occupation in life that I could be as excited about as he was about coaching. So I set out in search of an employment I could be interested and challenged by, that I would have fun doing, that I could never find enough time to do as well as I wanted, that would express my own identity. I would say that in that brief encounter he taught me a deep lesson about the meaning of vocation.”

*Tom Christenson, former Capital Professor of Philosophy & Religion*

# Now Consider Capital Majors

## What are your choices at Capital?

On the next page, you'll find a one-page Basic Capital University Majors chart.

Choose "NO" or "MAYBE" for each major. When choosing "NO", **think** about why you're removing it. Is it because you really **know** it isn't a good fit, or is your decision based on limited information (or worse, a stereotype) about the major?

For example, you might think that accounting majors will have little contact with people, when actually most accountants will be in constant contact with people and will need to have excellent social skills. You might want to eliminate English from the list because you think the only option is teaching, when there are an enormous number of jobs requiring writing skills in business, government, and the non-profit sector.

See the pages after the Basic Capital Majors chart (next page) to get some more information about the majors, and then check out the "What Can I Do with a Major in...?" guides on our web site (in the "Majors and Careers" section).

## WHICH MAJORS WILL LEAD TO JOBS?

All majors will lead to jobs after graduation (assuming that you get some experience in your field of interest before you graduate). But some majors are more *specific* than others, like Accounting, Education, Nursing, and Social Work. Other (usually liberal arts) majors are more open; they lead you into a bigger range of job options. It can be a trade-off, losing career flexibility for (relative) career certainty.

**Resist the temptation to choose a major *simply* because it clearly leads to a specific career.**

## MAJORS/PROGRAMS TO BEGIN RIGHT AWAY:

**Students intending to major in these four should start in fall of their FIRST year.**

**Chemistry** – can be declared at end of first year, but may require summer courses

**Music** – requires all four years to complete

**Nursing** – requires all four years to complete, plus summer of your sophomore year

**Pre-Medicine** – requires all four years to stay on track, regardless of major

**These six should be started by fall of the SOPHOMORE year:**

**Biology**

**Exercise Science**

**Computer Science**

**Mathematics**

**Education**

**Music Technology (BA-Professional Studies)**



# Chart of basic Capital University majors

When you choose "NO", be sure that you know enough about the major to eliminate it!

NO		MAYBE
	Accounting	
	Art (Studio Art)	
	Art Education	
	Art Therapy	
	Biology	
	Business Management	
	Chemistry/Biochemistry	
	Communication/Organizational Communication	
	Computer Science	
	Criminology	
	Economics	
	Education (Several options)	
	English (Literature, Journalism & Prof. Writing, Creative Writing)	
	Emerging Media (Emphasis track options: PR, Marketing, Film & Media Production, Journalism, Performance Technology, Digital Design)	
	Environmental Science	
	Exercise Science	
	Film & Media Production	
	Finance	
	History	
	International Studies	
	Marketing	
	Mathematics	
	Music (Several options)	
	Nursing	
	Philosophy	
	Political Science	
	Pre-Professional <i>programs</i> (see details in next section)	
	Psychology	
	Public Relations	
	Religion/Worship Ministries/Youth Ministry & Christian Education	
	Social Work	
	Sociology	
	Strategic Influence and Civic Leadership	
	Theatre Studies	
	World Languages & Cultures (French & Spanish)	

# Capital majors grouped by themes

*Look at themes you like most, or find a major you like, and look at other majors in the same theme!*

Note that you will find some majors under more than one category, and some majors (like Philosophy) can really fit in many areas, depending on your interests and how you apply them.

## **ADMINISTRATION and BUSINESS**

Accounting  
Business Management  
Communication  
Economics  
Finance  
Marketing  
Organizational Communication

## **THE ARTS**

Art/Fine Arts  
Art Therapy  
Emerging Media  
English  
Film & Media Production  
Digital Design (minor)  
Music (Several options)  
Theatre Studies

## **ATHLETICS and SPORTS**

Exercise Science  
Health & Sport Sciences in general  
Sport Management (minor)

## **LANGUAGE and CULTURE**

Communication  
French & Spanish  
History  
International Studies  
Philosophy  
Political Science  
Religion

## **PEOPLE-HELPING and PUBLIC SERVICE**

Art Therapy  
Criminology  
Education  
Nursing  
Philosophy  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Religion  
Social Work  
Sociology  
Strategic Influence and Civic Leadership  
Youth Ministry & Christian Education

## **SCIENCE, TECHNICAL, and HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

Biology  
Chemistry/Biochemistry  
Computer Science  
Environmental Science  
Exercise Science  
Mathematics  
Nursing  
Psychology

## **WRITING and MEDIA**

Communication  
Emerging Media  
English  
Film & Media Production  
Public Relations

# Brief descriptions of CAPITAL MAJORS

*The following pages list the basic majors available at Capital. Skim through all of these, even if you think you know what you want. Try to be open to all the possibilities; you might be surprised.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:** Use the University Bulletin ([www.bulletin.capital.edu](http://www.bulletin.capital.edu)) to read the major course descriptions. Your choice might be guided by noticing which courses sound more appealing.

**RELATED CAREERS:** For comprehensive descriptions of majors and career options, look at the Career Development web site, [www.capital.edu/CareerDevelopment](http://www.capital.edu/CareerDevelopment), and click on “Majors and Careers” on the left navigation bar, then click on “What can I do with this major?” (under Explore Majors & Your Interests)

## ☐ ACCOUNTING

Accounting can be “numbers oriented”, but it’s broader than that. Typical careers are in public accounting and corporate accounting, and much of that involves work with people (especially auditing) and problem-solving. To become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), you must complete more course hours than any other major (150 total hours). Life’s not fair. ☺ But you can finish the additional courses after graduation!

## ☐ ART/STUDIO ART/ART EDUCATION

Art majors can earn a Bachelor of Arts degree as well as licensure to teach art at the elementary and/or secondary level. Students should complete off-campus internships in such areas as interior design or commercial art to provide experience for full-time employment.

## ☐ ART THERAPY

An art therapist explores individuals’ psychological processes and communications through nonverbal expressions. Our art therapy program includes a wide range of courses in studio art, art appreciation, psychology, and (obviously) art therapy. When considering this major, remember that a Master’s degree is required to become a licensed therapist.

## ☐ BIOLOGY

Students who major in biology are required to take at least 36 hours of biology as well as courses in chemistry, math, and physics. Although many biology majors are working toward admission to medical, dental, veterinary, or occupational therapy schools, the biology major can also lead to teaching licensure and to field work in such areas as environmental science and laboratory testing.

## ☐ BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

This major prepares students to enhance human and organizational performance. The program prepares versatile leaders and managers for careers such as small business management, public sector management, sales, retail management, supervisory and entry level management positions, and human resources positions such as recruitment, training and development, and employee relations.

## ☐ CHEMISTRY and BIOCHEMISTRY

Our chemistry program emphasizes laboratory-based instruction. Areas of study include physical, organic, inorganic, analytical, and biochemistry. Graduates typically pursue laboratory-related employment, graduate school, pharmacy school, or medical school.

## ❑ COMMUNICATION

Communication is central to everything we do as human beings — how we interact, inform and persuade, how we express our ideas and our opinions. This field can be applied in a wide range of work environments, including many that are business-related. It is important to focus on a particular area and to gain experience through internships. This is also a great option for a double-major.

## ❑ COMPUTER SCIENCE

Courses address a range of topics with the goal of exposing students to the important issues in software and hardware. Students are prepared for immediate employment and for the rapidly changing nature of this field. They are also prepared for entry into graduate programs.

## ❑ CRIMINOLOGY

Criminology is a multidisciplinary program that integrates study from the fields of sociology, criminology, psychology, and political science. Criminology majors study the causes and consequences of crime, and society's options for dealing with crime. Graduates pursue work in a wide range of law enforcement, crime prevention, and social service areas.

## ❑ ECONOMICS

The study of economics explores the way societies organize to produce and distribute goods and services. Students study issues such as unemployment, inflation, budget deficits, money supply, interest rates, trade deficits, and pricing, and then examine how policies affect particular markets. Graduates are employed by banks, manufacturing companies, insurance companies, and other businesses and organizations interested in the economy. Many graduates pursue graduate school or law school.

## ❑ EDUCATION

The main options are:

- Primary Childhood (Pre-K – 5) [*used to be Early Childhood (K-3)*]
- Middle Childhood (4-9)
- Adolescent to Young Adult Education (7- 12)
- Multi-Aged (special areas, preschool - 12)
- Intervention Specialist: Mild/Moderate Needs (special education, K-12)
- (Music Education is through the Conservatory of Music)

Areas of concentration are required for some of these areas. The education program includes a substantial experiential component, including field experience during sophomore year, pedagogy experience during junior year, and student teaching during the senior year.

## ❑ EMERGING MEDIA

The emerging media major integrates digital design, film & media production, professional writing, public relations, and business into five major specialization tracks. Emerging media majors develop both a historical understanding and contemporary skills needed to be successful in an increasingly diverse society. The emerging media program is an excellent choice for students whose interests are wide-ranging or who want to work with an integrated-communications agency or other organization where a broad base of skills and knowledge is beneficial. Check out all of the options on Capital's webpage!

## ❑ ENGLISH

English majors include creative writing, journalism & professional writing, and literature. Students may also select a variety of special studies and concentrations to enhance their major. Because good writing skills are in demand in virtually every organization, a wide range of careers is possible. During college, students should pursue internships related to their specific areas of interest in order to gain relevant experience.

## ❑ ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Contemporary concerns about overpopulation, global warming, and endangered species are covered in Environmental Science. The curriculum is multidisciplinary, including courses in science (biology, chemistry, physics, and geology), as well as economics, public policy, technical writing, and environmental regulations.

## ❑ EXERCISE SCIENCE

This is a major with specific emphasis on applications to fitness and health. It is primarily intended for students interested in non-teaching careers such as exercise science, exercise physiology, physical therapy, strength conditioning, health, and wellness, which often require graduate studies in a related field.

## ❑ FILM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

This major is designed for students interested in any of the three major areas of the broadcasting industry – news & performance, sales & advertising, or production & management. Students can assist in the production of CapTV, our student-led television show, work on Capital's radio station (WXCW), and will have the opportunity to participate in community media operations internships.

## ❑ FINANCE

This major prepares students to apply principles of financial analysis and investment. The job markets for this major include financial institutions (banks, insurance companies and mutual funds), corporate finance, brokerage house, financial consulting firms, and government agencies.

## ❑ HISTORY

Many career options exist for students who graduate with a history major, and this is guided by your specific interests. Still, there are some focused options. Students who want to teach history will also pursue education licensure in comprehensive social studies. Capital also offers a minor in historic preservation, which includes an internship in a historical society, museum, or archive. If you want to enter a specific career with a history major (e.g., historic preservation or museum studies), it is important to obtain internship experience prior to graduation.

## ❑ INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

This multidisciplinary major includes an overall view of international politics and economics, an understanding of world history and cultures, and proficiency in a modern language. It's for students who would like to work in government or non-profit agencies (e.g., Red Cross), or pursue graduate study. Students who want to pursue international business add a minor (or major). Study abroad is highly recommended.

## ❑ MARKETING

Marketing is often considered to be the creative side of business, but it is broader than that. The purpose of marketing is to create something customers will want and to communicate why they should want it. This includes sales, market research, brand management, advertising and customer service.

## ❑ MATHEMATIC

Math majors should enjoy understanding complex systems and exploring theory. Some career possibilities include actuarial science (focusing on probability), statistics, research, information systems and engineering. Students can also obtain education licensure with the mathematics major.

## ❑ MUSIC

The Conservatory of Music offers over a dozen majors for a Bachelor of Music degree (e.g., Composition, Music Industry, Music Technology, Performance) as well as a Bachelor of Music in Music Education, music minors and a Bachelor of Arts in Music for students who are interested in music but do not wish to pursue it professionally. See the bulletin ([bulletin.capital.edu](http://bulletin.capital.edu)) for complete information on these.

## ❑NURSING

This program places a strong emphasis on hands-on clinical experience, resulting in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Students begin caring for clients in the summer following their sophomore year, complete junior clinical rotations, and explore a specialty area through senior internships. In addition, students may choose to participate in a Co-op program, which offers an opportunity to obtain a paid position in a health care setting while still in school. Upon passing the state licensing tests, graduates will be Registered Nurses.

## ❑ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION

This major combines courses in communication and business, including business background in your academic plan without all of the courses (like math and accounting) required for a business minor. Students pursue a wide range of careers, based on their selection of an emphasis. Two popular emphasis options have been Human Resources and Public Administration.

## ❑PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy majors grapple with difficult questions, such as: “What do we really know?”; “What is relevant to judgments in ethics?” and “Are there any bases for belief in God?”. Although there aren’t many professional “philosophers,” this major provides a strong foundation of critical thinking skills. Students may want to combine this with a minor in another area, such as business, computer science, or religion.

## ❑POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science majors study areas like political theory, government, and international relations. The major can lead to a variety of careers, including those in city, state, or federal government. Students may choose the General track or the Pre-Law track. Either of these can also prepare students for public sector management positions in national, state, and local government and in nonprofit agencies. Students learn about the many skills and challenges associated with implementing public policy.

## ❑PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Pre-Professional programs accompany another major of your choice and lead to additional years of advanced study beyond your undergraduate degree. Details can be found in the University Bulletin.

### PRE-

Dentistry

Law (& 3+3 accelerated)

Medicine

Occupational Therapy

Optometry

Pharmacy

Physical Therapy

Physician Assistant

Podiatry

Public Health

Seminary

Veterinary Medicine

## ❑PSYCHOLOGY

Students learn concepts relating to the principles and theories of behavior, and understand the scientific approach to the study of behavior. Students who enjoy psychology are typically fascinated with the human mind and human behavior. Many students intend to pursue graduate study (counselor/therapist careers require a Master's or Ph.D.), but psychology majors obtain valuable skills at the Bachelor's level that are useful in a broad range of careers.

## ❑PUBLIC RELATIONS

Although the field of Public Relations covers many specialties and areas of interest, all people who work in PR have one thing in common – they are professional communicators. Capital PR majors develop their skills through core and specialty courses, internships, and involvement in the campus newspaper. Special areas of interest within the discipline include professional writing, marketing, and broadcast writing/production.

## **☐RELIGION/WORSHIP MINISTRIES/YOUTH MINISTRY & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Religion and related majors provide preparation for a broad range of careers, including nonprofit work and social service, as well as preparation for more specific careers in Christian ministry & education, and youth ministry. They also (obviously) provide preparation for graduate programs, including seminary and theology.

## **☐SOCIAL WORK**

This program includes courses in sociology, psychology, and social welfare, and provides two years of field placement (internship) to integrate classroom knowledge with real-life issues. Some examples of these external placements include psychiatric hospitals, child welfare agencies, teen pregnancy clinics, and legal aid programs. Graduates earn a Bachelor of Social Work degree.

## **☐SOCIOLOGY**

Students study the society they live in and how it relates to the world. They examine questions about such issues as population growth, change in the family institution, survival needs for the poor and homeless, and justice for victims of crime. Employment options are similar to those for Criminology and the social services field. Graduate study is also an option.

## **☐STRATEGIC INFLUENCE & CIVIC LEADERSHIP**

This major is coordinated through the Communication Department, and focuses broadly on Advocacy. It can also be combined with the minor in Social Justice. It is a good fit for students interested in careers related to Public Administration, Politics, Non-profit organization work, and Government positions.

## **☐THEATRE STUDIES**

This major provides preparation for careers in education, regional theatre, audience development and liturgical drama, as well as many other careers that are not directly related to theatre. Course offerings include acting, directing, stagecraft, performance studies, production, theatre history, and playwriting. Theatre management – studying business and theatre – is a growing area. Both the theatre studies major and minor create excellent foundations for the pursuit of graduate degrees.

## **☐WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES**

Capital offers French and Spanish majors (and several more languages, but not as majors). Courses in language, literature, and culture are included. Double majors are encouraged, especially for those students planning to use the language within a specific career field, such as international business, international relations, government, law or social work.

# PUT IT TOGETHER

## Major/Career choice summary

**As you “finish up”, complete the sections below, regarding your decision process and choices. Your responses can lead you to a vision or dream for your major and career direction, and can guide upcoming conversations.**

Describe your main interests and skills. What are you curious about?

Describe your most important values.

Write about how your past experiences provide clues to your direction.

List the majors that you are considering after completing exercises in this booklet.

List the careers or fields can you clearly see yourself working after graduation.



# Additional Resources

## **Campbell Interest and Skill Survey**

Most students have found this to be useful when they have an idea of things that they like to do, but have trouble putting that together with specific majors or careers. This survey compares your pattern of responses with the patterns from people (who like their jobs) in a variety of careers.

## **Web site**

Our home page is at [www.capital.edu/CareerDevelopment](http://www.capital.edu/CareerDevelopment).

- Select “Majors & Careers”, and scroll down for links to resources.

## **Career Development staff**

Most students say that they got the most out of this booklet when they **also** met with one of our staff to discuss their major and career options. We’re looking forward to helping you, too!