



How to Choose a College Major

Vocabulary - Day 2

Lesson Objective: Review vocabulary with students to make sure they understand specific terms that relate to the college application process, and the process of declaring a major field of study.

Terms

Enrollment status	The course load of a student reported by the school, generally defined in terms of full-time, half-time, less than half-time, withdrawn, or graduated
General education courses	A set of required courses in various subjects (e.g., math, science, humanities) that all students must complete to ensure a well-rounded education
Impacted	A term used to describe majors or programs with more applicants than available spots, resulting in a competitive admission process
Internship	A work experience opportunity where students gain practical, on-the-job training and real-world experience in their field of study
Major	A specific area of study that a student decides to focus on in college
Minor	Directed study that requires fewer credits than a major
Portfolio	A collection of a student's work, projects, and achievements that showcases their skills and accomplishments in their chosen field
Pre-major	A status assigned to students who have not yet officially declared their major but are working toward meeting the prerequisites and requirements for admission to a specific program
Prerequisite	A required course or condition that must be completed before enrolling in a more advanced course in the same subject
Reach school (1-2)	A post-secondary school a student has a relatively low probability of being admitted to. Recommended to apply at 1-2 reach schools
Safety school (2-3)	Any college or university where your academic credentials exceed the range for incoming freshmen and you have a very good chance of being accepted. Recommended to apply at 2-3 safety schools
Target school (3-5)	A school where a student's academic credentials fall within the school's average range and the student has a good probability of being admitted. Recommended to apply at 3-5 target schools
Undecided	Students who have not yet chosen their major and are exploring their options
Undergraduate student	A student who is enrolled in a course of study at or below the bachelor's level

Acronyms

STEM	An acronym representing academic disciplines and fields related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
UD (Upper Division)	Refers to the latter part of a student's undergraduate education, typically when they begin taking more specialized and advanced courses in their major
GE (General Education)	A set of courses that provide a well-rounded education by covering a range of subjects outside a student's major, often required for graduation
UG (Undergraduate)	Pertaining to students pursuing their first degree in higher education, typically a bachelor's degree
UAC (Undergraduate Advising Center)	A resource or department at a college or university that provides academic advising, guidance, and support to undergraduate students during their academic journey