



# How to Choose a College Major

## Vocabulary - Day 1

**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

Academic period	The time frame for which a student is enrolled; usually it is a semester, quarter, or trimester with specified start and end dates
Academic year	The period of time during which a school holds classes
Admission requirements	The specific criteria and qualifications that students must meet in order to be accepted into a college or university
Advising	The process of receiving guidance and support from academic advisors to help students make informed decisions about course selections and major choice
Catalog	A comprehensive publication provided by colleges and universities that contains detailed information about academic programs, courses, and policies
Change of major	The process by which a student officially switches their declared major to a different one, often involving specific requirements and procedures
Competitive major	A major or academic program with limited enrollment capacity, high demand, and rigorous admission criteria due to its popularity and limited availability
Concentration	A specialized area of study within a major that allows students to focus on a specific topic or aspect of their chosen field
Core curriculum / Core requirements	A set of required courses that all students must complete as part of their undergraduate education, designed to provide a well-rounded foundation
Course load	The number of classes a student takes each term; can vary by term
Declaration of major	The formal process through which a student officially selects and announces their chosen field of study for their undergraduate degree
Degree	Document awarded to a student when they finish a higher education course of study
Degree Audit	An evaluation or assessment of a student's academic progress, showing completed and remaining requirements for graduation
Discipline	A specific field of study or academic department, such as history, biology, psychology, or engineering
Electives	College classes the student chooses that are outside of their major area of study

### Acronyms

ROI (Return on Investment)	A measure of the financial benefits gained from investing in a college education compared to the costs incurred
AOS (Area of Study)	The specific academic field or discipline that a student chooses to focus on during their college education, synonymous with a major
BA (Bachelor of Arts)	An undergraduate degree typically awarded in fields related to the liberal arts, humanities, and social sciences
BS (Bachelor of Science)	An undergraduate degree typically awarded in fields related to the natural sciences, mathematics, engineering, and technology
LAC (Liberal Arts College)	A type of college that emphasizes a broad-based education in the liberal arts and sciences