Choosing a Major/Minor

Housing Authority of the City of Prichard, Alabama – Project SOAR
June 12, 2018
Time to decide
What do you want to be when you grow up?
Major/Minor Option(s)

- There's a good chance a student will change his/her mind.

- The Education Department says that about 30 percent of students switch majors at least once.

- According to a September Gallup survey. Only 11 percent of high school seniors had sought guidance from a high school counselor, and 28 percent from a college adviser.

- Time = Money over a four-year span.
Choosing Major/Minor Myth

• **If you want to make the big bucks, STEM is the best pathway**

According to Douglas A. Webber, an associate professor of economics at Temple University who studies earnings by academic field, the top quarter of earners who majored in English make more over their lifetimes than the bottom quarter of chemical engineers.

• For example, an English major in the 60th percentile makes $2.76 million in a lifetime, a major in psychology $2.57 million and a history major $2.64 million.

*This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/)*
From A College Participants Perspective

- In other words, you have to make good grades, and complete enough classes (credits, hours, etc.), maintain good communication with college professionals (professors, advisors, deans, & financial aid representatives) to keep moving toward successfully completing your degree or certificate in your desired major area. Keeping in a time period that’s acceptable to your school.
School’s SA Policy

- Financial Aid Office representative(s) will tell you:
  - what grade-point average (or equivalent standard) you need to maintain;
  - how quickly you need to be moving toward graduation (for instance, how many credits you should have successfully completed by the end of each year);
  - how an incomplete class, withdrawal, repeated class, change of major, or transfer of credits from another school affects your satisfactory academic progress;
  - how often your school will evaluate your progress;
  - what will happen if you fail to make satisfactory academic progress when your school evaluates you;
  - whether you are allowed to appeal your school’s decision that you haven’t made satisfactory academic progress (reasons for appeal usually include the death of a member of your family, your illness or injury, or other special circumstances); and
  - Complete your FAFSA regardless of your SAP progress
  - how you can regain eligibility for federal student aid.
The SAP Process

Do you meet SAP requirements?

Yes

If you're put on Warning, visit with a Financial Aid advisor to see what you need to do.

No

WARNING (Still eligible for Financial Aid)

You meet requirements by the end of the semester: Warning status removed.

FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION
No Appeals

You'll stay on suspension until you meet SAP requirements. You must pay for tuition until you regain FA eligibility.

SAP status is calculated at the end of each semester. When you meet the requirements, you'll be taken off suspension.

OK FOR FINANCIAL AID
Resources: References

- https://fafsa.gov/
- https://public.tableau.com/profile/douglas.webber#!/vizhome/LifetimeEarningsbyMajor/SHEET1
- This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND
- This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND