

## THE BIG DEAL ABOUT A MAJOR

A major concentrates study in a particular discipline or disciplines. Requiring a major assures that each student will reach advanced knowledge in a specified field. At Nebraska Wesleyan University, a major consists of at least 30 credit hours pursued under the direction of a department or an interdisciplinary program.

Students enter NWU without formally declaring a major. In fact, the earliest a student is *permitted* to declare a major is second semester of the first year. Some areas of study, however, require a special sequencing of classes; consequently, students are *strongly* encouraged to declare a major during their sophomore year.

Those considering possible majors in music, education, theatre, mathematics, or certain science fields should consult with advisors in their intended departments early so that they do not fall behind in fulfilling requirements.

## RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MAJORS AND CAREERS

Some careers, like education, accounting and nursing, have specific academic requirements.

Major A —————> Career A

Combined with related coursework, internships, or volunteer experience, some majors can lead to a variety of careers. For example, an English major could pursue careers in law, business, or government, or other industries.

Major A —————> Career A  
 —————> Career B  
 —————> Career C

Some careers require skills and knowledge gained through a variety of majors. For example, students interested in law or medicine could major in psychology, business, or exercise science, among other majors.

Major A —————> Career A  
 Major B —————> Career A  
 Major C —————> Career A

## STEPS TO DECLARE A MAJOR

1. Talk to the chair of the department in which you wish to declare a major. Discuss course requirements and other details.
2. Pick up a "Declaration of Major" form from the Registrar's Office or download it at [registrar.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://registrar.nebrwesleyan.edu).
3. Complete the form and have the chair of the department sign it.
4. Sign the form and return it to the Registrar's Office.

## STRATEGIES FOR MAKING MAJOR DECISIONS

### SEEK GUIDANCE FROM A CAREER COUNSELOR

- Set up an appointment to discuss ways your interests, values and skills align with major and career options. Develop a decision-making plan.
- Complete an inventory to help assess your interests.

### LISTEN TO YOURSELF

- Evaluate your academic strengths.
- Notice what homework you do first and what you put off.
- Recognize courses where you find the content fascinating.

### RESEARCH MAJORS AND CAREERS

- Visit [career.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://career.nebrwesleyan.edu) and choose "Major and Career Exploration." Explore the "What can I do with this degree" information.
- Use the Career Center website for links to gather information about occupations of interest.
- Interview an alumnus about their field, utilizing the Career Assistance Network, a database of more than 1300 NWU alumni willing to share their expertise.

### MAKE A SMALLER DECISION FIRST

- Begin by selecting a broad academic area: Humanities, Social Sciences, Math & Science, Health Care, The Arts, Business
- Use the process of elimination. What DON'T you want to study?

### CHECK OUT MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Visit [catalog.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://catalog.nebrwesleyan.edu) and look at the required courses for each major you are considering. Are almost all of the classes appealing to you? Only a few? Compare with other majors of interest.

### EXPERIENCE THE ENVIRONMENT

- Sit in on classes in areas you are considering.
- Shadow professionals in a career field of interest, using the Career Assistance Network as a resource.
- Volunteer or take a part-time job in an environment of interest.

### WORK BACKWARD

- If you have a career in mind, consider the major(s) that will logically get you to that career.
- If that's not appealing, can you minor in that field, major in something you love, and still get there?
- Will internships compensate for a less directly related major?

## CREATE YOUR SHORT LIST OF MAJORS

Using the list below, determine your level of interest in each major to create your short list of majors that interests you.

1=Definitely possible

2=Worth considering

3=What is this?

4=No way!

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Acting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Art<br><input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Training<br><input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry/Molecular Biology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Biology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Business Administration<br><input type="checkbox"/> Business-Sociology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Communication<br><input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice in Society<br><input type="checkbox"/> Directing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Economics<br><input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> English<br><input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Studies<br><input type="checkbox"/> German<br><input type="checkbox"/> Global Studies<br><input type="checkbox"/> Health and Fitness Studies<br><input type="checkbox"/> Health and Physical Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> History<br><input type="checkbox"/> History-Social Science Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Integrative Studies<br><input type="checkbox"/> International Business<br><input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music Education, Combination<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music Education, Instrumental<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music Education, Vocal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music Performance<br><input type="checkbox"/> Musical Theatre | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing (Pre-Licensure)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy and Religion<br><input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Physics<br><input type="checkbox"/> Political Communication<br><input type="checkbox"/> Political Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psychology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Science Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social Work<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sociology-Anthropology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Spanish<br><input type="checkbox"/> Special Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sport Management<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Design and Technology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Studies |
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**Now, select your top three options for a potential academic major:**

MAJOR 1: \_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR 2: \_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR 3: \_\_\_\_\_

## INTERESTED IN A MINOR?

Nebraska Wesleyan University also offers the following minors:

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| Accounting<br>American Minority Studies<br>Art History<br>Biology<br>Business Administration<br>Chemistry<br>Coaching<br>Communication<br>Criminal Justice<br>East Asian Studies<br>Economics<br>English<br>Environmental Studies<br>Exercise Science | Family Studies<br>Finance<br>Forensic Science<br>French<br>Gender Studies<br>German<br>Global Studies<br>Health and Fitness Studies<br>History<br>Human Resources Management<br>International Affairs<br>Japanese<br>Journalism<br>Legal Studies | Marketing<br>Mathematics<br>Music<br>Peace and Justice Studies<br>Philosophy and Religion<br>Physics<br>Political Science<br>Psychology<br>Sociology-Anthropology<br>Spanish<br>Sport Management<br>Studio Art<br>Theatre Arts<br>Writing |
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