

## THE BIG DEAL ABOUT A MAJOR

An academic 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 Nebraska Wesleyan University without formally declaring a major. In fact, the earliest a student is permitted to declare a major is second semester of the first year. However, some areas of study require a special sequencing of classes; consequently, students are strongly encouraged to declare a major during their sophomore year.

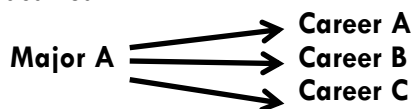
Those considering possible majors in music, education, theatre, mathematics, athletic training, or certain health and science fields should consult with advisors in their intended departments early so they do not fall behind in fulfilling requirements.

## RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MAJORS AND CAREERS

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



Through a combination of related coursework, internships, organizations, or volunteer experience, your major could also lead to a variety of careers. For example, an English major could pursue careers in law, business, government, or other industries.



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.



## 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 about the major that you need to know before submitting your declaration form.
2. Go to [registrar.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://registrar.nebrwesleyan.edu) and click on Forms.
3. Scroll down the page and select "Major/Minor Declaration – Current Traditional Undergraduate."
4. Complete and electronically submit the form.

## STRATEGIES FOR MAKING MAJOR DECISIONS

### SEEK GUIDANCE FROM A CAREER COUNSELOR

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

### EVALUATE YOUR ACADEMIC STRENGTHS

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

### MAKE A SMALLER DECISION FIRST

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

### RESEARCH MAJORS AND CAREERS

- Visit [career.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://career.nebrwesleyan.edu)
  - Choose "Major and Career Exploration" to explore the "What can I do with this degree" information and research careers.
  - Choose "Gain Experience" to gather information about occupations of interest.
- Interview an alumnus about their field utilizing the Career Assistance Network, a database of Nebraska Wesleyan University alumni willing to share their expertise.

### 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 the classes appealing to you, or only a few?
- Compare with other majors of interest.

### EXPERIENCE THE ENVIRONMENT

- Ask to 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.
- Join clubs and organizations at Nebraska Wesleyan University that are related to your areas 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, determine if you can minor in that field, major in something you love, and still get to that career.
- Research if participating in an internship in that career field will 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                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Planning               | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing (Pre-Licensure)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender & Sexuality Studies       | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy & Religion       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Fitness Studies         | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry/Molecular Biology           | <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Physical Education      | <input type="checkbox"/> Physics                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biology                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> History                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Science           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Administration                  | <input type="checkbox"/> History-Social Science Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Management          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business-Sociology                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation & Entrepreneurship    | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrative Studies              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication Studies                    | <input type="checkbox"/> International Business           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Education           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminology                              | <input type="checkbox"/> International Studies            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Work                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Analytics                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Marketing                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directing                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Language Studies          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Management            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Education                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Education, Combination     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts Education      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English & Writing                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Education, Vocal           | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Design & Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Science                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Performance                | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Studies             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Science (Pre-Athletic Training) | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Theatre                  |  |

## Now, select your top three options for a potential academic major:

MAJOR 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAJOR 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAJOR 3: \_\_\_\_\_

## INTERESTED IN ADDING AN ACADEMIC MINOR?

Nebraska Wesleyan University offers the following minors:

- |                         |                            |                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Accounting              | Environmental Studies      | Philosophy & Religion  |
| Art History             | Exercise Science           | Physics                |
| Art Studio              | Family Studies             | Political Science      |
| Biology                 | Finance                    | Project Management     |
| Business Administration | Gender & Sexuality Studies | Psychology             |
| Chemistry               | Health & Fitness Studies   | Public Health          |
| Coaching                | History                    | Religious Diversity    |
| Communication Studies   | Human Resources Management | Sociology-Anthropology |
| Computer Science        | International Policy       | Sport Management       |
| Criminal Justice        | International Studies      | Theatre Arts           |
| Data Analytics          | Marketing                  | U.S. Minority Studies  |
| East Asian Studies      | Mathematics                | Writing                |
| Economics               | Modern Language Literacy   |                        |
| English                 | Music                      |                        |