

# Implementing Meta Majors On Your Campus

## Meta Majors in Brief

### Purpose of The Tool

EAB experts interviewed hundreds of students who repeatedly expressed frustration about the program selection process. They were overwhelmed by the sheer number of options and often chose programs based on incomplete or inaccurate information. Meta majors were developed as a part of the broader effort to address this problem. EAB consulted hundreds of community college course catalogs from across the country, examining program offerings at technical schools and comprehensive colleges, rural schools as well as urban ones. The result is our Meta Major Taxonomy, a collection of meta majors compiled exclusively for community colleges.

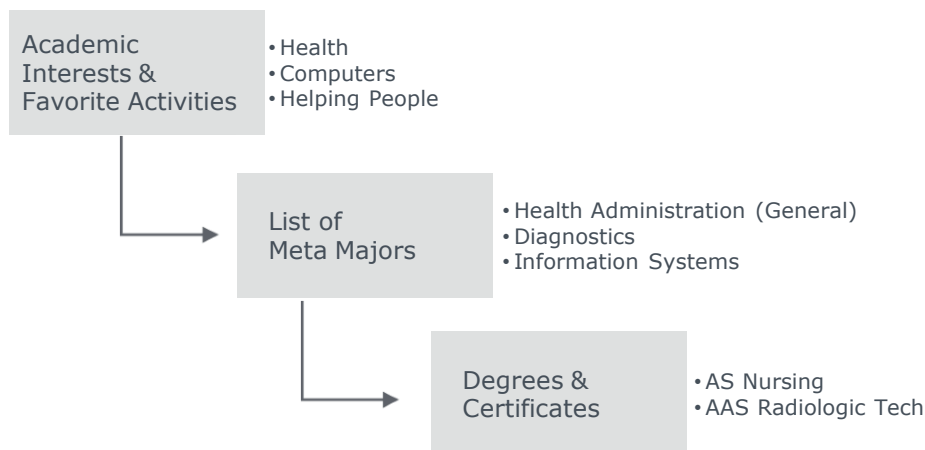
### What Is a Meta Major?

Meta majors are general academic pathways that group together degrees or certificates that share certain commonalities such as common coursework, employment prospects, or general subject matter.

Meta majors are used to help guide the program selection process for students. Instead of being faced with an entire course catalog full of options, students will gradually “drill-down” to a best-fit program that accounts for their unique interests and abilities.

### Guiding Students to a Best-Fit Program

*Meta Majors a Crucial Piece of Drill-Down Process*



Each community college has its own specific set of degree and certificate offerings. For that reason, the EAB Meta Major Taxonomy can be customized for each school. To do this, you will need to select which meta majors are most relevant to you and your students. Any meta majors that are not relevant will be “turned off” for your school; they will not be linked to any degrees or certificates, and students will not be able to see or choose them.

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## EAB Meta Major Taxonomy

Listed below is the complete EAB Meta Major Taxonomy. This taxonomy is not intended to recommend a specific quantity of meta majors but rather the type and style of descriptions necessary when implementing meta majors. Meta majors are in alphabetical order. For each meta major option, you will see a sample student-friendly description, typical jobs, and sample degree programs that could be linked to that option.

### Accounting

**Description:** Were you always the banker when you played monopoly? The treasurer for your student government? Accounting professionals are organized, analytical people that help businesses and people record and track the flow of their money as it's earned and spent. Accountants know all about tax codes and related local, state and federal regulations as well to make sure all that money is flowing legally! You'll need at least a bachelor's degree to be an accountant, but an AA or AAS can be used for other accounting-related careers.

**Sample Majors:** Accounting Technician, Accounting Specialist, Business Administration

**Sample Jobs:** Audit Administrator, Accounting Clerk, Financial Assistant

**Skills:** You must be highly trustworthy, organized, excellent with numbers, and intrigued by financial statements. Communication skills are also a plus. Many accountants have Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees, or take additional courses to take the CPA exam to become a Certified Public Accountant.

### Administrative and Support Services

**Description:** Administrative and support services personnel can work in hospitals, small businesses, large companies, or law offices. They help to keep things organized and running efficiently and are great at managing multiple tasks at once. For example, they may keep track of customer or patient records or appointments, manage spreadsheets and databases, and coordinate meetings and events. If you're detail-oriented, comfortable with computers, and enjoy helping people, this field may be a good fit for you.

**Sample Majors:** Medical Office Assisting, Paralegal Studies, Clerical Studies

**Sample Jobs:** Paralegal, Administrative Assistant, Medical Office Clerk

**Skills:** You've got to have great people-skills to interact with various professionals, patients, or customers, be comfortable on the computer, and be detail-oriented and organized. Specialized knowledge may be required for certain jobs, such as those in hospitals or law offices.

### Agriculture

**Description:** What is organic food, anyway? People working in agriculture know! Agriculture is the scientific study of the food we grow, the animals we raise, and the natural resources – like water and soil – that we use every day. People in agriculture love science and work in a variety a different jobs. Some might work in a lab, others outdoors, and some might do both! As an agriculture worker, you'll be making our food safer and more nutritious, our livestock healthier, and our environment more suitable and sustainable.

**Sample Majors:** Agricultural Technology, Veterinary Studies, Food Science

**Sample Jobs:** Food Scientist, Farmer, Veterinary Technician

**Skills:** You should have a knack for science and math, and an interest in plants, animals, and possibly nutrition. Depending on your job, you might need to be comfortable in a lab setting or outdoors. Business skills and research skills are also handy.

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### Animal Science

**Description:** How do we manage our animals and keep them healthy? This is the question people in animal science explore every day. You can expect to be well-trained in the life sciences—biology, biochemistry, and anatomy—as well as animal reproduction, breeding, and nutrition. People in this field work with many types of domestic animals, including pets, livestock, exotic animals, and laboratory animals. They also have business sense when it comes to knowing how the agriculture industry operates.

**Sample Majors:** Wildlife Management, Veterinary Technician, Food Science

**Sample Jobs:** Veterinary Technician, Feed Formulator, Breeding Manager

**Skills:** You should be comfortable with numbers, science, and technology. Make sure you're happy working in a lab as well as outside, and of course, be comfortable interacting directly with animals.

### Architecture

**Description:** Ever stared up at skyscrapers and wondered how they came to be? Architecture employees love problem solving as much as they love building things—offices, houses, bridges, you name it. They blend art and mathematics to create a vision for the spaces we live and work. It's not all staring at skylines, though! Be prepared for some challenging math, computerized design, and lots of teamwork!

**Sample Majors:** Architectural Technology, Computer-Assisted Design (CAD), Construction Planning

**Sample Jobs:** Drafter, Facility Manager, Urban Planner

**Skills:** You've got to be a creative problem solver with a knack for math, design, and working with others. Keep in mind that some architecture jobs require a bachelor's degree too!

### Arts

**Description:** Who doesn't love going to the theater? A concert? A painting exhibit? The arts are a haven for creative types who thrive on self-expression. Though many artists continue to pursue careers in traditional arts fields—theater, dance, music, visual arts, etc.—many more are also blending their creative talents with technology, education, or business. These people might teach the next generation of artists, manage exhibits, or work on advertising for a variety of companies.

**Sample Majors:** Arts Education, Visual Arts, Theater, Arts Management, Design

**Sample Jobs:** Graphic Designer, Sales Representative, Film Production Technician, Interior Designer

**Skills:** Depending on your job, you could need skills ranging from design to management. As a rule of thumb, communication skills and basic business skills are useful for most arts-related careers.

### Business

**Description:** Let's get down to business! Businesspeople work in the private sector; they make products or provide services to earn money (profit). There are many different types of businesses that are divided into different categories or industries. For example, Subway is a business in the food industry. Many people who pursue a business career are persuasive, organized team players. They enjoy competition, and aren't afraid of working with numbers. If you're a hard worker with lots of motivation, you might even start your own business as an entrepreneur!

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## EAB Meta Major Taxonomy

### Business (cont.)

**Sample Majors:** Management, Marketing/Sales, Accounting, Finance, Economics, Entrepreneurship

**Sample Jobs:** Sales Representative, Office Manager, Financial Analyst

**Skills:** Teamwork and communication are highly important for business. You'll also need to be comfortable with computer programs (Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, etc.), math, and financial analysis for certain roles.

### Communications

*Description:* These days, we hear about things in so many ways: television, radio, newspapers, and of course, websites and apps. Communications professionals are the creators and distributors of all this information. They use their talents to turn ordinary words or complicated ideas into catchy ads, dynamic websites, or moving speeches and articles. Others bring us the news from places near and far. If you're great at taking in lots of ideas and information and boiling them down into a concise, elegant message, communications might be for you!

**Sample Majors:** Graphic Design, Website Design, Journalism, Broadcasting, Advertising

**Sample Jobs:** Graphic Designer, Reporter, Public Relations Associate

**Skills:** You've got to be great with people, writing, and speaking. Some jobs may also require design skills.

### Construction

*Description:* It's not all about laying concrete! Construction professionals combine craftsmanship, business sense, and architecture skills to shape our cities and towns. They oversee blueprints and crunch numbers to make sure our buildings and bridges are built both safely and within budget. They shape the tops of skyscrapers and create family homes. Construction professionals generally love numbers and geometry, get a thrill from building something from the ground up, and work well with all kinds of people building our world takes a lot of teamwork!

**Sample Majors:** Construction Drafting, Construction Management, Construction Inspection

**Sample Jobs:** Project Site Manager, Construction Cost Manager, Residential Remodeling Lead

**Skills:** Be ready to be great with math. You'll need it to calculate the right angles for buildings, as well as to manage the dollars and cents for construction jobs. You'll also need to be a team player who can stay on top of complex, multi-step projects.

### Diagnostics and Medical Technology

**Description:** Sometimes, health is a mystery. We can pick up clues about what might be ailing a patient through questioning and observation, but sometimes we need advanced technology to really figure out what's going on. That's where diagnostics and medical technology come in. These professionals might use science and technology to help pregnant women monitor their baby's growth, help dentists locate cavities, or prepare Xrays that will help doctors heal broken bones. They spend a lot of time in labs using medical equipment, but also collaborate with medical professionals and occasionally work with patients.

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## EAB Meta Major Taxonomy

### Diagnosics and Medical Technology (cont.)

**Sample Majors:** Radiologic Technology, Medical Sonography, Dental Assisting

**Sample Jobs:** Radiologic Technician, Ultrasonography Technician, Lab Technician

**Skills:** You'll need to be trained on specific medical equipment to work in this field. An interest in science and health is a must, as is a great attitude that will help patients feel at ease.

### Digital Media

**Description:** Let's break it down. Media refers to all the things we use to communicate: TV, radio, books, etc. "Digital" has to do with computers and the Internet. So people who work in digital media use our latest and greatest technology to create engaging, interesting communication with people everywhere. Think Facebook ads, tablet apps, animation, audio content, web design. Digital media pros are creative, tech-savvy, and great communicators all in one!

**Sample Majors:** Web Design, Digital Media Production, Digital Marketing

**Sample Jobs:** Web Designer, Multimedia Animator, Social Media Manager

**Skills:** Overall, you must be a computer whiz who's also got talent for creative design and communication. Some jobs will require you to be able to use specific software as well (Dreamweaver, InDesign, etc.).

### Earth/Environmental Science

**Description:** From the air we breathe to the water we drink and the food we eat, our earth and environment have a direct impact on our survival. People in this field figure out the impact that we humans have on our earth, what we can do to preserve it, and how we can use it to benefit our society as a whole. These people enjoy science, research, and while they may, at times, work in a lab, they have a deep appreciation for the great outdoors.

**Sample Majors:** GIS (Geographic Information System) Technology, Environmental Studies, Natural Resource Management

**Sample Jobs:** GIS Specialist, Surveyor, Environmental Research Assistant

**Skills:** You've got to be great with science and also comfortable working with computers. Writing and research skills are often necessary for certain positions.

### Education

**Description:** If you're reading this, thank a teacher! Educators make sure we all know our ABC's, our 1-2-3's and so much more. Educators can focus on a specific age group (early childhood, for example), a particular subject, or other support services in schools. No matter what, you've got to have a lot of energy, a love of learning, and a passion for helping the next generation flourish. Note that to be a classroom teacher, you'll need a bachelor's degree and possibly other state-required certifications.

**Sample Majors:** Early Childhood Education, Health Education, Arts Education

**Sample Jobs:** Classroom Teaching Assistant, Pre-school Teacher, School Office Administrator

**Skills:** Excellent organizational and communication skills are needed to work in education. And, of course, you've got to be a team player who enjoys working with children and youth.

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### Engineering

**Description:** What does the future look like to you? Engineers are working on it right now—blending science and technology to invent new things or improve the stuff we use every day. There are different types of engineers who focus on different types of innovations: for example, aerospace engineers design and develop air and space crafts, while chemical engineers manipulate atoms and molecules to create new materials. A two-year degree is a great start to get into math and science careers more generally, or to set a foundation for an engineering major at a four-year school.

**Sample Majors:** Engineering Sciences, Engineering Technology, Manufacturing

**Sample Jobs:** Engineer (with BA), Drafter, Engineering Technician

**Skills:** You’ve got to be endlessly curious with a strong interest in physical and computer sciences. Be prepared to be work with numbers regularly, and pursue a four-year degree if you want to be a certified engineer.

### Finance

**Description:** From working on Wall Street to working for a school, finance workers are sought after by thousands of organizations worldwide. If you are interested in learning about the stock market and how companies and organizations use, borrow, and lend money, or are just interested in learning about how a business runs from the inside, finance is a powerful way to get your foot in the door. Be prepared to brush up on some tough math and business courses—finance workers are highly analytical people!

**Sample Majors:** Financial Analysis, Budgeting, Corporate Finance, Financial Planning

**Sample Jobs:** Bank Teller, Financial Services Representative

**Skills:** Be comfortable working with numbers, pay attention to detail, and be familiar with Microsoft Excel and/or other software. Depending on the job function, a Bachelor’s degree may be required.

### Graphics/Web Design

**Description:** It’s where technology meets art. Graphic /web designers are responsible for crafting a business’s visual brand—think of the Nike swoosh or the bright red Coca-Cola script. They’re creative thinkers with a knack for marketing, able to predict how different designs will make an audience feel. They are also very detail-oriented; from fonts to colors to layout to text content, everything counts when you’re responsible for creating the “face” of a company!

**Sample Majors:** Graphic Design, Web Design, Multimedia Arts

**Sample Jobs:** Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Animator, Advertising Associate

**Skills:** You must be detail oriented and artistic to work as a graphic or web designer. You’ll also need to know how to use certain software (DreamWeaver, InDesign, etc.) and/or web design tools (HTML, Javascript, etc.)

### Hospitality

**Description:** If you’ve ever gone on vacation or been to a big wedding, chances are you’ve met someone who works in hospitality. Hospitality employees provide a variety of services in restaurants, hotels, and travel agencies. If you’re looking for a fast-paced career that requires you to meet lots of different people, stay organized, and come up with quick, creative solutions to different issues, a hospitality program might be the right fit for you!

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## EAB Meta Major Taxonomy

### Hospitality (cont.)

**Sample Majors:** Hotel Management, Culinary Arts, Travel/Tourism

**Sample Jobs:** Hotel Manager, Travel Agent, Chef, Event Planner, Caterer

**Skills:** Excellent customer service skills and business skills are needed for hospitality careers. Depending on your job, you might also need other specialized skills, like cooking or interior design.

### Human Services

*Description:* Human services employees take on a range of roles, but all have one thing in common: they enjoy helping people and improving communities. They can help the elderly, counsel troubled families, care for children, or assist people who are overcoming addiction. If you're compassionate and driven to make a difference in the lives of people in your community, human services could be a good fit for you.

**Sample Majors:** Cosmetology, Psychology, Counseling

**Sample Jobs:** Substance Abuse Counselor, Early Childcare Specialist

**Skills:** Human services requires excellent communication and listening skills. Some jobs may require specialized training for specific skills (i.e., Elderly Healthcare) or further education (i.e., Counseling).

### Information Technology

**Description:** Welcome to the technology era—computer whizzes wanted! As an Information Technology (IT) employee, you might work with networks, making sure computers communicating with one another. Or maybe you'll work with databases, making sure mountains of information can be stored and found at the touch of a button. Or in cybersecurity, policing our technology and keeping it safe from viruses and hackers. Chances are you'll learn a new language—computer code! IT workers are generally analytical people with a love for technology, logic, and problem solving.

**Sample Majors:** Computer Science, Computer Networking, Cybersecurity

**Sample Jobs:** Database Administrator, Computer Programmer, Software Engineer

**Skills:** Must be comfortable with numbers and technology, an adept problem solver, and great at communicating with non-tech people who need your help!

### Language/Ethnic Studies

**Description:** Our world is becoming increasingly connected. People who study languages and other cultures are getting prepared to work with diverse groups of people around the world. Some use their education to teach others about global issues, others pursue research on a specific region or population, and others still go on to careers helping governments and businesses embrace diversity. Some people even go off to work in foreign countries. So if you're curious about the world and its many different people, and you enjoy research, writing, geography and history, you might enjoy this path!

**Sample Majors:** Anthropology, Gender Studies, Foreign Languages, International Relations

**Sample Jobs:** ESL (English as a Second Language) Instructor, Interpreter, Researcher

**Skills:** Be prepared for lots of writing and research. Some jobs will require you to be fluent in other languages. Some teaching or research jobs will require a four-year degree.

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### Legal Services

**Description:** Shows like *Law & Order* flaunt the drama of the courtroom and its intense lawyers. But in truth, there's a much larger cast of characters in the real legal system – and a ton of different careers. Legal services employees work in government offices, courthouses, and at private legal firms to make sure that our legal system operates fairly and efficiently. They know how to stay calm and professional under pressure, can read complex legal documents, and always write clearly. If you're someone who's detail-oriented, fascinated by law, and thrive in a demanding, professional environment, legal services could be a great fit.

**Sample Majors:** Pre-Law, Paralegal Studies, Legal Administration

**Sample Jobs:** Paralegal, Legal Secretary, Court Reporter

**Skills:** Excellent English language reading and writing skills are a must. You should also be professional and organized with good computer processing skills.

### Liberal Arts

**Description:** Sometimes this is called "Humanities." Essentially, liberal arts degree is interdisciplinary—it covers a mix of academic subjects with the goal of giving you a well-rounded education. Similar to how you studied a range of subjects in high school, a liberal arts path will allow you to study a bit of mathematics, science, arts, history, psychology, etc. You can also focus on any one of these subjects individually.

**Sample Majors:** Psychology, English, Mathematics, Humanities, Political Science

**Sample Jobs:** Educator, Researcher, Nonprofit Organization Coordinator

**Skills:** You should be comfortable researching, writing, and have strong critical thinking skills.

### Life Sciences

**Description:** How do our bodies work? Why do things live and die and change? Life sciences examine living things—plants, animals, humans, microbes – and how they relate to each other and their environments. Employees can choose to focus on any one of many life science fields: biology, medicine, botany, zoology, etc. They work in labs, hospitals, or in research offices. They enjoy posing questions, testing solutions, and conducting research. Fascinated yet? Put on your goggles and head to the lab!

**Sample Majors:** Biology, Biochemistry, Botany, Zoology

**Sample Jobs:** Research Technician, Lab Technician, Medical Assistant

**Skills:** Excellent at science, comfortable with technology and research. To work in research labs, you may need a further education.

### Maintenance and Repair

**Description:** Are *you* that handy person people call when something's broken? Maintenance and Repair careers rely on people who have a lot a different skills—a "jack of all trades." No two days are alike—you'll fix an electrical problem one day, and be up on a roof the next. If you enjoy working with your hands, helping people, and solving new problems each day, this path could be a great fit.

**Sample Majors:** Plumbing, Electrical Repair, HVAC



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## EAB Meta Major Taxonomy

### Maintenance and Repair (cont.)

**Sample Jobs:** Plumber, Carpenter, Electrician, HVAC specialist

**Skills:** You can pursue a broad set of skills, or focus on one specialization, depending on your interests. Either way, you've got to be good with mechanics and have exceptional customer service skills.

### Manufacturing Trades

**Description:** Look around you. A manufacturer has been involved in most things you see. People in manufacturing or production make everything from our computers to our clothes and furniture. Some manufacturers like to be hands-on, making the things we use or to operating the complex production machinery. Many love mathematics – they work with computers and calculate *how* things should be made to ensure high quality and of course, workers' safety. Both types of people often work with the latest production technology, like 3-D printing!

**Sample Majors:** Welding, Skilled Trades, Hydraulics and Motors, Engineering Technologies

**Sample Jobs:** Facilities Manager, Machine Operator, Floor Assembly Supervisor, Product Manager

**Skills:** You should enjoy math, technology, and for some jobs, physical science. For managerial positions, people skills are a must, as is attention to detail, especially when it comes to safety.

### Marketing/Sales

**Description:** Could you sell a bicycle to a fish if you really tried? Are you upbeat and energized about meeting lots of people? Marketing and sales might be for you. Marketers and salespeople are charmers. They get along with a lot of different people, and know how to craft a message to land a sale. It's a little bit business, a little bit psychology with a dash of creativity and enthusiasm. Some of these people work in business offices to create marketing strategies. Others are on the road, traveling to meet with clients, recruit new employees, and make business happen!

**Sample Majors:** Marketing, Business, Sales, Human Resources

**Sample Jobs:** Sales Associate, Marketer, Business Representative, Human Resources Representative

**Skills:** You must be a great communicator with exceptional customer service skills. Business skills are also a plus, so you've got to be comfortable with numbers and computers as well.

### Mathematics

**Description:** Math – the universal language! It's true. Being a whiz with numbers is a skill that's valued in many different careers around the world. Generally, people pair this interest with another area of study to help guide their path. Some will go into business, using their math skills to drive profits. Others mix math with technology to manage large computer information systems. No matter how you choose to use your math skills, with all the opportunities out there, you can be sure that things will add up nicely!

**Sample Majors:** Calculus, Mathematics, Engineering, Business, Computer Technology, Education

**Sample Jobs:** Math tutor, Engineering Technician, Business Analyst, Budgeting Officer

**Skills:** Have an analytical mind, and an interest in applying math to various other fields. For some jobs, you'll need additional specific skills related to math, like financial analysis for business.

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### Nursing

**Description:** Are you a people person with a passion for health care? Nurses are hands-on health professionals who help prevent sickness, care for patients, and advocate for health. They can work in clinics, hospitals, or other health care centers. To be a nurse, you've got to love science and math, and enjoy teamwork. Keep in mind that recently there's been a national push for nurses to have higher levels of education, including bachelor's degrees (BSN) and, for some jobs, master's degrees.

**Sample Majors:** Nursing Assistant, Nursing, Pre-Health

**Sample Jobs:** Registered Nurse (RN), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

**Skills:** You've got to be great at working with people—both patients and your team of colleagues. Excellent communication skills, math, and science knowledge, and an ability to stay organized, efficient, and detail-oriented are also expected.

### Nutrition and Wellness

**Description:** It's all about diet and exercise! People who work in Nutrition and Wellness professions focus on keeping communities healthy. Some do this by helping people eat the right foods, others do it by figuring out exercises to get people in shape or help people recover from injuries. They enjoy helping people, and tend to study health and science – especially subjects like biology and physiology. People in this profession can work in health care centers, build their own nutrition or wellness-related business, or travel around helping individuals (like athletes, children, or the elderly) maintain their health and fitness.

**Sample Majors:** Rehabilitation Therapy, Sport Science, Biology, Nutrition Science

**Sample Jobs:** Physical Therapy Assistant, Physical Trainer, Massage Therapist, Health Educator, Dietitian

**Skills:** Generally, you should have great customer service and communication skills. Business and math skills can also come in handy. Some jobs also require specialized skills (i.e., massage therapy, physical trainer) or certifications.

### Personal Care Services

**Description:** Everyone needs a helping hand or some pampering now and then. Personal care professionals take care of that, and so much more. They're the customer service pros who make everyone's day a little better. You can find them working at the spa, the salon, clinics, gyms, hotels...just about anywhere there are people who need help looking and feeling their best. Prefer working with our furrier friends? Some personal care professionals also specialize in pet care!

**Sample Majors:** Cosmetology, Early Childhood Development, Mortuary Science, Culinary Arts

**Sample Jobs:** Makeup Artist, Manicurist, Hotel Concierge, Pet Groomer, Funeral Home Manager

**Skills:** Customer service skills are VERY important in this line of work. Depending on your career, you may also need specific licenses or certificates as well.

### Physical Sciences

**Description:** These are sometimes called "Earth and Space Sciences," and rightly so! Physical sciences examine the forces that affect our planet: Why do oceans have waves? What causes volcanic eruptions? You'll study the math and science behind each of these questions and so many more. People in this field may go on to work in labs, assisting scientists, or in national parks, educating the public about the mysteries of the earth around them. Others go on to pursue four-year degrees in Engineering or another science area in order to become scientists themselves.

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### Physical Sciences (cont.)

**Sample Majors:** Chemistry, Geology, Astronomy, Physics

**Sample Jobs:** Geothermal Technician, GIS Specialist, Civil Engineering Practitioner

**Sample Skills:** You should love science, math, and technology. Specialized skills may be needed for certain jobs (i.e., Geographical Information Systems [GIS]).

### Programming

**Description:** If computers ever really do take over the world, programmers would be the ultimate rulers. Programmers write the rules (code) that computers follow in order to work correctly. Programmers work on a wide variety of technology—from the apps on your phone to the program you’re using right this moment, programmers played a role. Programmers are highly logical thinkers and problem solvers. They tend to be great with math and have the patience to work through complex processes. Some work in offices, but many programmers are also allowed to work on their computers from home as well.

**Sample Majors:** Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Coding, Programming

**Sample Jobs:** Mobile Application Developer, Programmer, Systems Analyst, Software Engineer

**Skills:** You will have to learn various coding languages (Java, SQL, HTML, Visual Basic, etc.). You should also be comfortable with new technology, math, and problem solving.

### Protective Services

**Description:** People in protective services tend to have a high degree of integrity; they help to keep our communities safe, enjoy public service, and have a great respect for the law. There are many positions in this area, including police officers, correctional officers, and firefighters. In most positions, you should be prepared to be great under pressure, and several of these jobs have certain health and physical fitness requirements. Certain positions may also require special training, such as police academy.

**Sample Majors:** Fire Science, Police Academy, Criminal Justice

**Sample Jobs:** Firefighter, Police Officer, Correctional Officer

**Skills:** You should be ready to get physically fit and become very familiar with the different rules and laws. Specialized skills and training are often required for certain jobs (ex: Fire fighter, Police Officer).

### Social Sciences

**Description:** People in social sciences are curious about human nature itself: why do we do the things we do? How do societies become what they are? You can learn about politics, economics, and psychology through the social sciences. People who study social sciences can go on to a variety of careers, depending on their focus. They may work in schools, government offices, or as human resource professionals in various companies. However, many of these careers may require a four-year degree. Social science provides a broad education, with coursework that requires a lot of reading, writing, and math.

**Sample Majors:** Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology

**Sample Jobs:** Counselor, Social Worker, Sales Manager, Researcher

**Skills:** You should be curious about people and interested in helping them. Strong reading and writing skills are often necessary.

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### Sports and Recreation

**Description:** Who wants to go to the ball game? People in this field generally have a great appreciation for the outdoors and athletics. Jobs in this field range from managing the daily operations of community centers and parks, to organizing sports programs and keeping athletes in top form. You should enjoy working with people, excel at keeping things organized, and, in some positions, have an understanding of health science and athletic training.

**Sample Majors:** Recreation Management, Therapeutic Recreation, Sports Management

**Sample Jobs:** Personal Trainer, Youth Program Coordinator, Sports Announcer

**Skills:** You should have great communication, management, and organizational skills. Some positions require specialized skills or knowledge (ex: sports rules and regulations, health science, etc.)

### Technical Trades

**Description:** Technical trades include a wide span of careers for people who generally enjoy fixing things and working with their hands. For example, you might work in machine repair or as an electrician. These jobs are sometimes known as “skilled trades” because each requires a specialized skill set. Many people will work for companies, keeping our buildings, roads, and equipment in working condition. Others opt to be their own boss and offer up their skills to a wide variety of clients. If you choose to do this, you’ll also need to have some business savvy, as well as customer service and marketing skills.

**Sample Majors:** Carpentry, Electronics, Repair Mechanics

**Sample Jobs:** Automotive Technician, Carpenter, Plumber

**Skills:** Each trade has a different skill set, but in general, expect to be good at problem solving, communicating with others, and working outdoors. Understanding basic business and management skills is also useful.

### Transportation and Logistics

**Description:** Planes! Trains! Automobiles! People who enjoy logic, math, and marvel at the buildings, machinery, and roads around them are a great fit for Transportation and Logistics majors. People in this field may learn specific technical skills to build and fix the cities around us. Others enjoy working in offices on the business side of things; they help companies figure out the best ways to get products from one place to another—from the moment someone clicks “buy” online to the moment that package arrives on their doorstep. If you enjoy solving puzzles, working with technology, and don’t mind doing a bit of math, this area could be a good fit for you.

**Sample Majors:** Aviation Science, Supply Chain Management, Automotive Electrical Systems

**Sample Jobs:** Crane and Tower Operator, Aviation Inspector, Distribution Manager

**Skills:** You should be good with math and technology. For many jobs, specialized skills may be needed to operate or manage specific machinery.