

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 to avoid falling behind in fulfilling requirements.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MAJORS AND CAREERS


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

Major A —————> **Career A**

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.

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
Major C

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.
- 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 the [NWU Career Center](#) website:
 - 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 alumni 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 the [Course Catalog](#) 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 A 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. Rank your interest from 1 to 4 (1 = "Very interested", 2 = "Worth considering", 3 = "What is this?", and 4 = "No way!").

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Science
(Pre-Athletic Training) | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Education, Vocal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Performance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender and Sexuality
Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Theatre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology | <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Physical
Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing
(Pre-Licensure) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biology | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy and
Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business
Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> History-Social Science
Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Analytics | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation and
Entrepreneurship | <input type="checkbox"/> Physics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business-Sociology | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrative Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> International Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication
Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> International Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminology | <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts
Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cybersecurity | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Analytics | <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Language
Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directing | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Education,
Combination | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Education | | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English and Writing | | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Science | | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Design and
Technology |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Studies |

Now, select your top three options for a potential academic major. Write them below:

• **Major 1:**

• **Major 2:**

• **Major 3:**

INTERESTED IN ADDING AN ACADEMIC MINOR?

Nebraska Wesleyan University offers the following options:

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

CHOOSE YOUR "THREAD"

At Nebraska Wesleyan University, students will choose one or two "threads" as part of their integrative core requirement of the [Archway Curriculum](#). Explore the following options and select your thread(s) of interest below:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaos | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Health and Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Democracy | <input type="checkbox"/> Humans in the Natural Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender and Sexuality | <input type="checkbox"/> Identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Power |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Going Global | | <input type="checkbox"/> Science and Religion |

STEPS TO DECLARE AN ACADEMIC MAJOR OR MINOR

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 the [NWU Registrar's Office](#) webpage and click on "Forms."
3. Click on the "Registrar Forms in Softdocs" button and then click on "Forms."
4. Scroll down and select the form labeled "REG Major-Minor Declaration."
5. Complete and electronically submit the form.