

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!").

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

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:

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

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☐ Chaos | ☐ Human Health and Disease | ☐ Innovation |
| ☐ Democracy | ☐ Humans in the Natural Environment | ☐ Justice |
| ☐ Gender and Sexuality | ☐ Identity | ☐ Power |
| ☐ Going Global | | ☐ 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.