

CHOOSING A MAJOR THAT FITS



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

Mendoza College of Business

You only have four years in college. Make the most of them by studying something you really love. If you are considering business, you won't choose a major until February of your sophomore year, but it is a decision you can—and should—already be thinking about. Here are a few things you can do to ensure you make an informed, intentional decision when the time comes:

1

Commit to being a business major first! You'll take 40 credits in core classes that span all business disciplines during your sophomore and junior years which will give you a broad knowledge base. Learn all you can—don't just "get through it" on your way to your major. You can't know exactly where your career will take you and which skills/knowledge will be most helpful, so make the most of every class.

2

Choosing a major is YOUR choice. Be careful not to pick a major to please someone else or because it's the most practical or likely to get you a job. Well-intentioned parents, friends and even advisors may think they know what's best for you (but frankly, they're not always right). The Career Center offers many resources to help you better understand your interests and identify your strengths and skills to determine your best fit.

3

Run some *What If?* scenarios on your Graduation Progress System (GPS) on insideND to see the requirements for various majors. Use this tool to see the impact of adding a complementary second major or minor to your plans.

4

Visit the Career Center website (careercenter.nd.edu) and review the *What Can I Do With This Major?* guide, as well as the career paths of recent graduates for the majors you are considering. Don't automatically dismiss a major as "not for you" until you've explored all the possibilities.

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Attend as many information sessions as you can for all of the majors offered at Mendoza. You may hear something new that changes your opinion of a particular path or confirms that the job/major is not a good fit for you. Either way, it is time well spent.

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Read class descriptions on departmental websites or in Class Search. What classes sound the most interesting to you? You will take 18 to 21 credits specific to your major, so you should be excited by the content of those classes—not just the career opportunities after college.

7

Meet with an advisor, professor and/or someone in the Career Center to discuss your interests, talents and thoughts while getting additional input and guidance. Sometimes just voicing your thoughts aloud helps you realize what is most important to you.

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Take BAUG 30000 – *Career Planning* (offered every semester by the Career Center) to get expert advice at every step of the interview preparation process.

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Sign up for the Peer Mentoring Program offered on the Mendoza Student Leadership Association website (nd.edu/~msla).

Staffed with upperclassmen across all majors, this is a great way to learn from those a few steps ahead of you—they've taken major classes and had an internship or two. Hear what worked for them and what they might do differently if they had it to do over.

10

Talk to your family, your parents' friends and your friends' parents. Why do they hold the jobs they have? What are they excited about and which aspects do they find most challenging? What traits, skills and experiences do they look for in a new hire? Start building your network today.

The Career Center can help you with job-shadowing opportunities and externships that give you a closer look at specific jobs and industries.

11

Get involved with a business club—most are open to all majors and all class years. See a list on the MSLA website (nd.edu/~msla).

12

Read the *Wall Street Journal* and business-oriented magazines such as *Fortune*, *BusinessWeek* or *Fast Company*. There are trade magazines for many specific career paths. (Look for those as well.) What articles grab and hold your attention? What piques your curiosity and inspires a deeper dive? What do you read about when no one is requiring it? There are business roles in every industry—is there one you find particularly interesting?

13

Create a LinkedIn profile and begin connecting to other students and the Notre Dame alumni network. Networking is incredibly powerful and one of the great advantages of attending a school like Notre Dame.

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Visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website www.bls.gov/ooh/ for information on every possible occupation—maybe some you haven't even considered.

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Breathe. Regardless of your specific major, there are endless opportunities available for students who have made the most of their academic and extracurricular opportunities at Notre Dame and used their resources wisely.

We, at the Mendoza College of Business, are confident that when you invest the time necessary to reflect and explore your options and learn deeply in the classroom, you will ultimately find the job that will start you on the path toward a truly fulfilling future.

You've got this!

Students in the Mendoza College of Business may choose one of the following five majors:

Accountancy

Finance

Information Technology Management

(may be combined with a concentration in Business Analytics, Finance & Financial Accounting, Mobile Web Development or Visual Interface Design)

Management Consulting

(may be combined with a Business Intelligence concentration)

Marketing

All business majors are also eligible to add a minor in entrepreneurship. See an advisor in 101 Mendoza for additional information on your options.



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