Majors Exploration

Not sure what you want to major in? Or what to do with a degree? That’s not uncommon. Few students come to university with career goals all mapped out. Experience, self-assessment, and research can help you discover what it is you want to do. Here are some key sites and services worth looking at.

Carleton Programs
Not sure where to start choosing a major? Be sure to do your research.

a) Programs and Requirements

Visit: admissions.carleton.ca/programs.
Explore:
☑ Carleton’s programs. There may be majors or minors you haven’t even heard of before.
☑ The section on careers by major: admissions.carleton.ca/careers/

Visit: admissions.carleton.ca/apply/
Explore:
☑ Does your program of interest require any prerequisite subjects?
☑ What’s the deadline to apply?

b) The Undergraduate Calendar

Visit: www.carleton.ca/cuuc.
Explore:
☑ Program requirements by clicking on the Programs tab. This will let you know what courses you are required to take in different degree programs.
☑ Courses by major. Want to browse through course offerings in Economics, Law or Anthropology (etc.)? Click on the Courses link.

c) Other good sites:
Canlearn is a good site for researching programs, other universities, scholarships, how to budget for university, and more: www.canlearn.ca.

What can I do with a major in…
Career Services at Carleton has some helpful resources for planning your career and major.

a) What can I do with a degree in…?

Visit: www.carleton.ca/career/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/
Explore:
☑ The link between fields of study and potential careers.
Enriched Support Program
Aboriginal Enriched Support Program

b) How can I figure out what to do with my life?

Alright there isn’t a magic solution to that one, but here are some resources to help you along the way.

Visit: www.central.carleton.ca & follow the link to myCareer. Explore:

☑ Career Workshops: workshops are offered across a variety of subjects. Some you can even do online.
☑ Career Counselling appointments: these aren’t just for graduating students! They can help you explore what to major in and how to link your major to a career.
☑ Professional Programs: Click on the Resources tab in myCareer for info about how to apply to med school, law school or teacher’s college.
☑ Volunteer Opportunities: want to explore different careers? Volunteer in a related field.
☑ Is all this worth it? Earning a degree has many pay offs; visit this site to learn more: http://www.cou.on.ca/publications/fact-sheets-%281%29/learn-more-and-earn-more

FAQ’s

Q. What is the difference between a Major and a Minor?
A. Major is the field in which a student focuses during the course of his/her degree. A student will generally complete half of their credits in their major subject area, the other half are electives. A Minor is a secondary concentration of courses—this is one way that you can complete your elective course requirements. A minor is usually 4 required credits in a particular subject area.

Q. What is an "Honours" degree and how does it differ from the General three-year degree?
A. An Honours degree refers to a 20-credit program in which the average student taking a full course load normally graduates within four years. The General degree refers to a 15-credit program in which the average student taking a full course load normally graduates within three years. Both degrees provide Carleton students with the critical skills and training required for a professional career. However, the four-year degree offers an opportunity for more in-depth study and may lead to study at the graduate level.

Q. What is a double Major? Will it take me longer to complete my degree?
A. A double Major (or Combined Honours) is simply two Majors completed in one degree—usually 7 credits are required in each major. Although it doesn't necessarily take longer to complete a degree, pursuing a double major does reduce the student's overall number of elective courses.

Q. Are there co-op and work experience opportunities at Carleton?
A. Yes there are. These are the Arts/Social Science and Business programs that have co-op streams available: Anthropology, Cognitive Science, Commerce, Communication Studies, Economics, Law, Political Science, and Sociology. In addition to co-ops, Carleton offers internships, placements, practicums, and field courses in many disciplines; check the calendar for details: www.carleton.ca/cuuc. Visit: www.carleton.ca/career/ for more info on co-op.

Q. How do I figure out what courses to take next year?
Have a look at the Carleton Undergraduate Calendar: www.carleton.ca/cuuc and follow the link to programs. Also handy is this site: www.carleton.ca/registrar/registration/program-templates/.