

FACT OR FICTION?

***FICTION:* An academic major leads to a specific career.**

FACT: Many individuals are employed in positions that are different from their original major. A few Rollins majors such as Computer Science and Elementary Education prepare students for fairly specific career fields, but most liberal arts majors give graduates a wide range of options. Liberal arts students have the opportunity to develop broad skills in communication, problem solving, working with people, and cross-cultural understanding. Because the average college graduate will change career fields 3-5 times over the course of his/her lifetime, it is important to consider what major will help achieve success in all of those careers. The transferable skills provided by a liberal arts education can help graduates continue to succeed long after college and throughout a lifetime of varying careers.

***FICTION:* Liberal arts graduates are not employable.**

FACT: Liberal arts students develop skills that are highly valued by employers and applicable to a wide range of professional jobs. It is sometimes difficult to see all of the career options available in various fields. It is never too soon to begin defining your goals and exploring your options. The Office of Career Services can help you discover and achieve your career-related goals.

***FICTION:* You must pursue certain specific undergraduate majors to gain admission to postgraduate professional schools in fields such as business, law, or medicine.**

FACT: While some postgraduate professional schools require or recommend certain academic prerequisites, in most cases they do not require a specific major. In many instances they may be looking for the development of broad skills, such as the ability to read or write critically. Generally, you can major in a wide variety of fields and still have an opportunity to get into the graduate program you desire.

***FICTION:* Your first job will determine the rest of your career. Therefore, you ought to be completely sure about your choice when you make an academic or career decision.**

FACT: Every career has its advantages and disadvantages and any choice involves some risk. You can always change your mind. In fact, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average person changes careers three to five times in a lifetime!

***FICTION:* You should choose a major that is in high demand.**

FACT: The job market moves in cycles. The career that is in high demand now may be glutted by the time you finish college due to the large number of people entering the field or because of shifting economic patterns. As a result of changing technology, new fields are constantly opening up. Choose a major that is interesting and where you can be successful.