

Consider a Double Major—it's Easy if you plan Ahead

It may seem hard enough to graduate from college in the four years expected of you. But the truth is, if you plan your schedule and curriculum well, you can buy yourself an edge in the job market with a double major.

Here's the math:

You typically take 5 classes per semester.

Assuming that you will graduate in the four years normally "allotted" to you,

5 classes x 8 semesters = 40 classes.

A major typically takes 10 classes to complete—that's only 25% of your classes. A double major is only 50% of your classes!

The others are comprised of "Gen Ed," "Core Curriculum" requirements, etc. Some of your core requirements for certain majors will also align with those from other majors.

For example, if you double major in Accounting and Finance, you will certainly have overlaps. Even if you double major in Marketing and Business you are likely to have overlapping course work.

Then, the rest are up to you.

In addition, you will enter college with several AP's under your belt. If you have achieved a 4 or 5 on your AP exams in those subjects, you are likely to be exempt from several classes in your university's core curriculum. Then the math becomes even more in your favor.

Double majors have more cachet for both theoretical reasons and practical ones. Employers see you as having more initiative and possibly more concrete skill sets with a double major. This can set you apart from all of the other applicants.

The other reason to double major is to hedge your bets. You indicated an interest in English as a major, but you may have a nagging (and realistic) fear that English majors are not highly sought after in the job market; at least not right out of college. You would be wise to double major in business so that you can put your writing skills to use (writing content for websites, or "white papers" for companies until you have written your first novel (or however you would put the English major to use)). Or major in Marketing or Public Relations—other places to use your English major. Another way to navigate this decision might be to major in one thing you love, and another thing that's practical. For example, if you are interested in Journalism, Advertising, etc. you could certainly major in either of those...especially if you tack on some other coursework and/or also major in something business related, which will give you hard, practical skills to apply right away. You can even do the same thing with a major and a minor, concentration, or whatever your future university may call it.

There's no question that this will take some planning. I can help you navigate it all.