

# For Arts & Sciences Students

The career path for Arts & Sciences (A&S) students is a little less straight-forward than it is with other college majors. Someone who studies accounting will most likely become an accountant, while someone who studies psychology can become anything from an advertising agent to a welfare caseworker. A liberal arts degree gives you many career options and, therefore, is a valuable asset!

AT&T tracked liberal arts majors in the Bell Systems and discovered that "managers who majored in the humanities and the social sciences are the strongest in performance, and the greater proportion are apt to be promoted to higher levels within the organization."

## KNOW THYSELF

Most people's career paths are based on their interests, skills, and work values, not what they choose as a major. It is imperative that you explore and understand what your interests and abilities are and to be able to effectively articulate them.

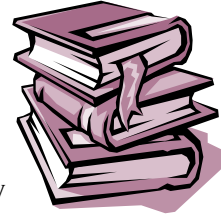
Maybe you already have a clear idea about what you want to do. But if you don't, do some self-directed activities or work with a career counselor. Below are some activities you can do to help you through this process.

- ★ You have many electives—take some classes that interest you.
- ★ Gain information on different careers (e.g., potential income, training, job outlook, skills required, etc.) by using the Internet or Career Services' Information Center.
- ★ Connect with professionals in industries that interest you. Follow them for a day and/or talk to them about what they do on a day-to-day basis. Check out UT's Career and Alumni Network on CareerTRAK for possible connections.
- ★ Participate in meaningful work experiences, whether it is volunteer or an internship.
- ★ Make an appointment with a Career Services advisor if you're unsure where to start.

A&S students learn many skills while they are in college, including the ones listed below. Employers prefer to hire people who have these qualities\*:

SKILLS

1. Communication skills
2. Honesty & integrity
3. Teamwork
4. Interpersonal skills
5. Strong work ethic
6. Motivation/ initiative
7. Flexibility/ adaptability
8. Analytical skills
9. Computer skills
10. Organizational skills



\*Source:  
NACE Employer  
Survey 2002

## CELEBRITY A&S MAJORS

- ★ Conan O'Brien, Late-night show host: *History & American Literature*
- ★ Carly Fiorina, CEO of Hewlett-Packard: *Medieval History & Philosophy*
- ★ Michael Eisner, CEO Disney: *English*
- ★ Oprah Winfrey, Talk-show host & philanthropist: *Speech & Drama*
- ★ Steve Martin, Comedian & actor: *Philosophy*
- ★ Tracy Chapman, Musician: *Anthropology*
- ★ Denzel Washington, Actor: *Journalism*
- ★ Art Garfunkle, of Simon & Garfunkle: *Math & Music*
- ★ Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls basketball player: *Math*
- ★ John Elway, Denver Broncos quarterback: *Philosophy*
- ★ Mick Jagger, of Rolling Stones: *Economics*
- ★ Spike Lee, Movie Director: *Mass Communications*
- ★ Daniel Johnson, President of UT: *Sociology & Philosophy/Religion*

## MYTHS

**Myth:** *In selecting a major, you are choosing a career.*

**Fact:** While it is true that certain majors such as engineering and computer science prepare students for fairly specific career fields, a far greater number of majors do not have a direct correlation with given career areas. A study conducted by the College Placement Council revealed that the majority of college graduates are successfully employed in fields not directly related to their academic majors. So choose a major you enjoy and you'll do well in it.

**Myth:** *Making a major or occupational choice is irreversible.*

**Fact:** Your decision making anxiety can be heightened by this belief. The majority of students change their major at least once. Many of the classes you take the first two years of school are University requirements and may transfer if you change your major. Furthermore, most Americans will change career paths *eight times!*

## INDUSTRIES THAT HIRE A&S MAJORS

- ★ Banks and other financial institutions
- ★ Colleges or universities
- ★ Insurance companies
- ★ Manufacturers
- ★ Newspapers and magazines
- ★ Non-profit organizations
- ★ Public relations/ advertising firms
- ★ Publishing companies
- ★ Retailers
- ★ Schools
- ★ Historical societies
- ★ Libraries
- ★ Local, state and federal government
- ★ Museums
- ★ Research organizations & labs
- ★ Health services
- ★ Hospitals
- ★ Assisted living facilities
- ★ Art studios
- ★ Psychiatric institutions
- ★ Television & movie studios
- ★ Textile industry
- ★ Theater companies
- ★ *And the list goes on and on....*