



Choosing & Changing Majors

Choosing a college major is closely tied to career planning. A major helps you reach a goal, by developing knowledge and skills. Meeting with a Career Counselor to discuss what you like to do, what you're good at, and what's important to you can help you focus on majors that will get you to where you'd like to go.

Changing your major at Cal Poly starts with contacting the prospective major department. Each department may set requirements, such as coursework that must be completed before petitioning or a minimum GPA. Once you qualify by the department's guidelines, the petition to change majors is available by request at the Office of Academic Records, in the Administration Building. It is important to both closely follow requirements to change majors and to maintain sufficient progress in the major in which you are currently enrolled, as required.

If you're not sure of what you want to change to, then...

1. Meet with a Career Counselor in Career Services for:
 - career counseling, which might include interest testing or computer guidance systems
 - researching career paths with a major, including surveys of graduates
2. Research careers and majors in the Career Resource Center, Career Services, Room 117.
3. Visit the advising center or advisors in your college.
4. Talk with faculty advisors in departments you're interested in.
5. Ask around - family, friends - see what others are doing and have done.
6. Try out a job, summer position, co-op or internship to learn about careers you're thinking about.

If you know what you want to change into, then...

1. Go directly to the department or advising center to ask about change of major policies.
2. Get a written statement of requirements, if available, or write down recommended procedures, keeping a record of what you were told, the date, and the name of who you spoke to.
3. Work on meeting requirements to change.
4. Ask the department if you need to get on a waiting list or give your name expressing interest.
5. Check with the department about when in the quarter or school year to apply for change of major.
6. Forms
 - A Petition to change majors is available from Academic Records, 2nd floor, Administration Bldg.
 - Everyone files this same petition; instructions are on the form.
 - Departments may have additional forms to complete. Ask.