**The Business Major: The Logical Choice for Practical People**

Business is about making decisions. Successful business people use a logical thought process to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of an issue in order to make a decision and explain that decision to others. Each major teaches the skills needed to make decisions and to be an ethical leader in that sub-area of business.

- Here is a chart to help you pick a major. Are you more of a people person or a math person?
1. Do I have to pick a major within Business as a freshman or incoming transfer student?
   - You do not have to pick a major right away. However, it is helpful to pick a major as soon as you can narrow it to a few choices because it allows you to get to know an advisor in the College of Business. Additionally, you will receive information about what is happening in the College and be eligible for scholarships awarded by the College of Business.
   - Knowing if you are a people-person or math-person is enough information for you to choose a department.
     - People-person majors are in the Department of Management, Marketing and General Business (CC 212).
     - Math-person majors are in the Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance (CC 220).
     - Math-person majors who are also interested in computers are in the Department of Computer Information & Decision Management (CC 210).
   - The first 2.5 years is the same for all business majors. Thus, you need to pick a major by the middle of your junior year but you do not have to "know what you want to do" until then.
   - We suggest that you choose an initial business major and be assigned to a department as soon as you can (freshman/sophomore) with the understanding that you may change it to another business major by the time you are ready for your second semester of your junior year.

2. Can I change the major after I have chosen it?
   - Yes, it is easy to change majors. All you need to do is fill out a new advising agreement with your new advisor.
   - You can switch advisors within a major or between departments. You will not upset your prior advisor if you change majors.
   - If you change your major after you have begun to take major-specific courses, you may delay your graduation date.

3. What major should I chose if I have many transfer hours or if I change to Business from another major in a different college at WT?
   - Students who have taken mostly the University core should be able to choose any major. Any extra classes that do not specifically fit your new degree plan can be your free electives.
   - You should speak to an advisor about any classes that may be substitutes for electives in your new major. There is no reason not to ask. We are used to having students switch to business from another major and usually know what classes can “count” for us.
     - You should chose a major based on interest and job prospects.
For students with many hours might consider one of the Economics majors because they have the most electives and the most flexible degree plans.
  - Students with science and/or math classes might consider the B.S. in Economics.
  - Students with humanities and/or foreign language classes might consider the B.A. in Economics.
  - Many students with a lot of transfer hours or hours out of high school might consider the BBA in Economics as a major.

4. I have many transfer hours but they do not count for my major. Why is this?

- Each major has a series of courses that constitute the core body of knowledge for that major. Each student must complete those courses in order to earn the degree.
  - Majors at WTAMU are usually 120 hours. It is not just any 120 hours but the 120 hours that prepare you for that career path.

Let’s consider the degree plan for a Business student.
  - Each Business student must complete the 42 hours of the University core. Everyone else at WTAMU takes these same 42 hours. The only rules are that Business students take Economics as the choice for the Core 80 Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement and either Math 1314 or 1324 for the Mathematics requirement.
  - Each BBA business student completes the 39 hours of the Business core. The BA and BS Economics majors complete a slightly different core based on their degree plans.
  - Each major has a set of required courses that each student must take.

- For example, a transfer student might enter with all 42 hours for the University core along with an additional 21 hours.
  - If the 21 hours are required courses for a major, those classes count on the degree plan. Let us say that 12 of the hours count.
  - This leaves 9 hours for free electives. The various Business majors have from 6 to 15 hours of free electives. The BA and BS in Economics have 18 hours of free electives.
  - Thus, if you chose a major with 6 hours of free electives but you have 9 hours of free electives, you have 3 hours extra. That class still transfers but because the class does not have a spot on the degree plan, it does not count for your degree.

As discussed above, students with many transfer hours may want consider the BBA, BA, or BS in Economics because the three majors have the largest number of free electives (15 or 18 hours) and the most flexibility in course selection.
5. **I think that I want to go to law school.**
   • If you are considering law school, we suggest that you consider Economics as your major. Economics majors consistently score very high on the LSAT exam (the entrance exam for law school).
   
   • Economics teaches how to analyze varied information to reach a decision – the very skill needed for success in law school.

6. **Should I take my free electives as a freshman?**
   • There is a benefit to taking a wide variety of classes when a freshman or sophomore in order to try out areas of interest.
   
   • However, electives can be very useful during your senior year to finish a specialty area, to use for an internship, to make your schedule more flexible, or to use in case you change your major.
   
   • We suggest saving as many of your electives as possible for your senior year.

7. **Should I consider a minor?**
   • Yes, minors are a great way to combine your two interests.
     o Maybe you are creative but also interested in wealth-management. You could major in Marketing with a minor in Finance or major in Finance with a minor in Marketing.
     
     o Many times students will major in a people-skill area and minor in a math-skill area or visa versa.
     
     o It is also fine to major and minor with two related areas such as Management and Marketing or Accounting and Finance. Computer Information Systems and Economics are two minors that go with any other major.
     
     o General Business majors cannot do a minor because they take classes in different areas already.
   
   • Minors require 18 hours in the subject area. The catalog as the specific classes that you must take for the minor.
   
   • WTAMU does not require minors but many students find minors helpful when they enter the job market.
8. I need to take most of my classes online. Which major should I choose?
   • The General Business major is the most flexible of the majors in terms of scheduling, and students can complete it entirely online.
   • The Economics, Finance, Management and Marketing majors may be able to be completed online but it depends on the schedule. You should talk with an advisor from your major.

**WTAMU College of Business (COB) Mission Statement**

The mission of the College of Business is to provide high quality undergraduate and graduate business education with a global perspective and ethical awareness. We accomplish this through emphasis on excellence in teaching, which is strengthened by faculty scholarship and supported by professional service.

**This document was created by Dr. Anne Macy (math person: a strategist/investigator type) as a guide for her advisees. It does not reflect the views and opinions of the College of Business or its faculty.**