

# To Double or not to Double?

*That is the question.*

## Double Majoring

***Double Majoring is becoming increasingly popular on campus... but is it right for you? Ask yourself:***

- ✓ Why do you want to double major?

Is it because you think a double major sounds impressive? Want to beef up your resume? If these are the real reasons behind taking on such a large and specialized academic load, you might want to reconsider. While double majoring does tell your potential employer that you are focused and hard-working, it will not necessarily make you a more competitive job applicant. And while it might wow your friends and make your parents a little less worried... it still might not be the best thing for you.

- ✓ Where do your passions lie?

If you really do have a passion in two distinct fields of study, then a double major may be perfect for you. It is important to have a 'keen intellectual interest' in the two areas you decide to focus on. Since a double major does involve a lot of time and effort, you want to make sure it is spent doing something you enjoy. This enjoyment of your work will reflect positively in your GPA and graduate school/career opportunities. However the reverse applies as well; taking on too much without being able to put your heart into it could be more harmful than beneficial.

- ✓ What could you miss out on with a double major?

One important thing to keep in mind is that with a double major you miss out on the chance to take electives, since you will have very little flexibility in your course options. Electives can be really important for discovering new interests and also for getting the valuable experience of a well-rounded liberal arts education. Trying out new disciplines and exploring new possibilities are at the core of what a college education is about, so make sure you don't limit yourself in double majoring.

- ✓ What will you gain with a double major?

You will gain an in-depth perspective in two disciplines of your choice. If you were to choose a career that requires a particular major (i.e. chemistry), a double major would give you the flexibility to decide between two different career paths. And while having a double major will not give you a significant advantage in applying to professional schools or jobs, certain combinations are considered especially marketable. For example, anything technical combined with a field of a broad, analytical focus would make you look particularly well next to your peers of a purely technical or purely liberal arts background. The point is to be well-rounded, but more importantly, to do what makes you happy.

***And last but not least... What are the requirements for a double major at Cal?***

- All Letters and Science breadth requirements must be completed
- No more than 2 upper division courses may be used to complete the requirements for both majors
- A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required
- A major adviser from each major must approve the program
- Applications for double majors must be submitted at least one semester prior to graduation