

Survey Instrument for SurveyMonkey

Looking Back at College Major Choice

Q1. Please select your major in College from the list below. If multiple entries from the list below match your majors, please select the primary major.

Answer Choices

Aeronautical and astronautical engineering
Chemical engineering
Civil engineering
Computer sciences
Earth and ocean sciences
Economics
Electrical engineering
Health
Industrial and manufacturing engineering
Materials science
Mechanical engineering
None of the above (this choice ends the survey)

Q2. How important was the availability of jobs or future income prospects in related industries (where people with this major typically worked) in your major choice decision?

Answer Choices

Most Important
Somewhat Important
Least Important (this choice ends the survey)

Q3. What college or university did you get your bachelors degree at?

Answer Choices

--[drop-down with various options]--

Q4. In which year did you graduate?

Answer Choices

--From 1962 -- 2017--

Q5. How worried were you about paying back your student loan when you decided your major?

Answer Choices

I did not have/was not going to have student loans
not worried at all
somewhat worried
very worried

**Q6. Which industry did you expect to work in when you chose your major?
Please select all the close ones that apply.**

Answer Choices

--[drop-down with various options]--

Q7. Which industry did you actually join at/shortly after graduation? (please select closest)

Answer Choices

--[drop-down with various options]--

Q8. Are you now employed in the same industry?

Answer Choices

Yes
No

Q9. Which major industry do you work in right now? (please select closest)

Answer Choices

--[drop-down with various options]--

Q10. What would you say was the main reason behind you switching industries?

Answer Choices

not satisfied with working conditions in your original job
not satisfied with pay/promotion in your original job
laid off/job terminated
change in career/professional interests
family-related reasons
job location
school-related reason

**Q11. When did you decide on your major?
Please indicate the closest year.**

Answer Choices

After sophomore year
Sophomore Year
Freshman Year
I had decided in the last 2 years of high school
I had decided earlier in grades 8-10 in school
I had decided even earlier

Q12. The following statements are about how you figured out your job prospects BEFORE you chose your major. Please select the statement below that you agree the most with:

Answer Choices

You gathered information about a small number of firms in related industries that were doing well from the news media or from peers/friends and relatives & used that knowledge to form overall expectations about job prospects in that industry
You gathered information about job prospects and salaries at ALL COMPANIES in related industries where you thought you might end up working
Other (please specify)

Q13. Relative to your perception of income /prospects at the time you chose your major, how did you think that the average person in your cohort with this major did at/shortly after graduation?

Answer Choices

Much Better
Slightly Better
About the same
Slightly Worse
Much Worse

Q14. Do you feel that your perception of career prospects could have been more accurate -- which would have helped you choose a more suitable major -- had you done a bit more research about job prospects with different majors?

Answer Choices

Yes
No

Q15. Think back to the time you chose your major. Given how you used to think at that time, if you had to choose between the following opportunities, which one would you have chosen?

Answer Choices

Opportunity 1: You would have been guaranteed to get a stable, average income
Opportunity 2: 99% chance you will get paid 10% lower than in Opportunity 1, but with a 1% chance, you could get ten times that stable average income

End of Survey Questionnaire

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY SURVEYMONKEY

Q16. Age

Answer Choices

< 18
18-29
30-44
45-60
> 60

Q17. Gender

Answer Choices

Male
Female

Q18. Household Income

Answer Choices

\$0-\$9,999
\$10,000-\$24,999
\$25,000-\$49,999
\$50,000-\$74,999
\$75,000-\$99,999
\$100,000-\$124,999
\$125,000-\$149,999
\$150,000-\$174,999
\$175,000-\$199,999
\$200,000+
Prefer not to answer

Q19. Region

Answer Choices

New England
Middle Atlantic
East North Central
West North Central
South Atlantic
East South Central
West South Central
Mountain

Pacific

Q20. Device Type

Answer Choices

iOS Phone / Tablet

Android Phone / Tablet

Other Phone / Tablet

Windows Desktop / Laptop

MacOS Desktop / Laptop

Other