

## 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

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### 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