

FAQ *frequently asked questions about* Tennessee Tech University

■ Choosing a Major

Undecided on a major? It's OK! At TTU, you're free to explore the many possible options before making a final decision.

You mean, I don't have to choose a major right NOW?

No, you've got time to think about it. Perhaps you're not exactly sure what you'd like to do. Maybe you're torn between a couple of options. The fact is, not all students are certain of what they want to do with the rest of their lives just because they've graduated from high school.

So if you start college still undecided on a major, you'll be in good company. It is true that "undecided" is one of the most popular majors among new college freshmen.

At TTU, we understand that exploring options for your future is part of the college experience, and we encourage you to take advantage of resources available to assist you in making this important decision.

I don't have a clue what I want to do. How do I even begin to go about choosing a major?

It all begins with knowing yourself. Start by answering some questions. What do you enjoy doing? Do you have special skills such as writing ability or musical talent? If you could do absolutely anything, what would that be?

Explore career options. Review employment listings in newspapers

for major cities or appearing on employment-related web sites. Read position descriptions in trade magazines and journals. See anything interesting? Does a pattern emerge of jobs that you tend to gravitate toward? What sort of educational qualifications are required for jobs that you find appealing?

Perhaps your fantasy job seems unreachable. But what about exploring careers related in some way to your ideal? For example, if you've always dreamed of being an NBA basketball star but don't have the height or skill for it, you may wish to consider careers in everything from health and physical education to journalism to marketing.

How else can TTU help me choose a major?

First, like all new TTU students, you'll be matched up with an academic advisor who can inform you of the available options and help you narrow down this list.

Most likely, he or she will take some time to get to know you and your interests and skills before making any recommendations. Your advisor will present many different course suggestions or options and help you assess your strengths.

Second, TTU's Office of Career Services can administer assessment tools such as Sigi+, COPS and other

personality tests to help match you with careers you might find interesting or in which you may do well.

And finally, once you're here you'll have numerous opportunities to speak with other students about what drew them to their chosen field of study.

My problem is this — I'd really like to go to TTU, but I don't see the major I want.

Like all universities, TTU doesn't offer every possible major. But if you definitely feel that Tennessee Tech is the place for you in all other respects, there are some things you can do if this comes up.

For example, it won't hurt to consult with an advisor to see what programs TTU does offer that might fit the bill.

It could be that the major you're interested in is referred to by a name different than that for which you've been searching. Suppose you're interested in teaching at the elementary school level. At TTU this program of study is known as Multi-Disciplinary Studies.

And frankly, it's not unheard of that you'll want to change your major. So before you rule TTU out because of a missing area of study, think about whether or not you might be tempted to follow another path along the way.

What are my choices at TTU?

Tennessee Tech University offers more than 40 undergraduate majors — plus many more concentrations within these majors.

To help you get started trying to choose one, here are just a few of the majors offered at TTU organized by areas of interest. If a topic appeals to you, have a look; you might just find some options you'd like to explore.

Animals, plants and the great outdoors

If these interest you, you may want to consider majoring in Agriculture or Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Or you might want to take a look at our Animal Science and Pre-Veterinary Medicine program.

As an Agriculture (B.S.) major you can choose from among concentrations in Agribusiness Management, Agricultural Education (to become certified to teach agriculture), Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Engineering Technology, Agronomy and Soils, Animal Science, Environmental Agriscience, Horticulture, Nursery and Landscape Management, or Turfgrass Management.

Our Wildlife and Fisheries Science (B.S.) major offers concentrations in Conservation Biology, Fisheries Science and Wildlife Science.

Or if you find the mineral kingdom more fascinating than the animal one, you might want to consider majoring in Geology.

Science, health and medicine

If these topics interest you, consider majoring in Biology (B.S.). Beyond the basics, you can also choose from concentrations in either Biochemistry, Environmental Biology or Health Sciences.

Or perhaps you'd prefer Chemistry (B.S.) with its concentrations in ACS Approved, Applied Chemistry or Biochemistry.

We also offer a B.S. in Physics in either Applied or Traditional Physics.

Plus, there are a number of medical and health care options among our pre-professional offerings such as Pre-Medicine, Pre-Dentistry, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Optometry, Pre-Dental Hygiene, Pre-Medical Technology, Pre-Occupational Therapy and Pre-Health Information Management.

TTU also offers the B.S.N. degree in Nursing through its School of Nursing.

Or you can help others be healthier by getting them to eat right. You can study Food, Nutrition and Dietetics or Food Service Administration through TTU's College of Agriculture and Human Ecology.

And don't forget about careers teaching Science or Physical Education. Through our College of Education you can prepare to teach Biology, Chemistry, Earth or Space Science, Physics or Health and Physical Education.

Computers, engineering and technology

Into computers? Consider studying Computer Science (B.S.) with concentrations in either Information Systems or Software and Scientific computing; Business Management Information Systems or Computer Engineering; or Web Design.

Or if you're really interested in how things work and how to make things work more efficiently, you may want to consider other engineering fields.

At TTU, you can earn your B.S. in Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Industrial or Mechanical Engineering. Or you can study Industrial Technology. Plus, there are more than 20 concentrations to choose from among our engineering majors, areas such as:

- Structural Mechanics
- Control Systems
- Physical Phenomena
- Power Systems and Energy Conversion
- Telecommunications
- Management and Supervision
- Controls and Vibrations
- Heat, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
- Machine Design
- Materials/Manufacturing
- Mechanics
- Power Production

Arts, Music, Culture and Creativity

Got musical talent? Choose to major in Music and concentrate on Vocal, Instrumental, or Performance and Pedagogy.

More of a creative writer? Consider majoring in Communication or concentrating on Journalism or Professional Communication.

Prefer fabrics and furniture? You may want to explore Human Ecology concentrations in Housing and Design or Merchandising and Design.

Or, for a comprehensive arts education, major in Fine Arts (B.F.A.).

To learn more about TTU's schools and colleges go to:
www.tntech.edu/academics.html

Accounting, business and marketing

Through TTU's College of Business you can study Accounting, Economics, Finance, Marketing or Business Management, which offers concentrations in General Management, Management Information Systems, Human Resource Management or Production and Operations Management.

Or prepare for working in the global economy with TTU's World Cultures and Business program.

Education, social or legal work

If you're interested in teaching or working with children, choose Multi-Disciplinary Studies to prepare to teach elementary school-aged students, or Secondary Education to teach grades 7-12 in subject areas such as English, French, German or Spanish, Mathematics, Social Studies, Speech Communication and Theatre or Sociology to name a few.

You can also study Special Education or Child and Family Studies (B.S.).

Or prepare for more careers helping others by studying Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice or Pre-Law.

Still can't choose?

Simply enter TTU as undecided via our General Curriculum program.

Or to find out more about what majors are available at TTU, please contact one of our Admissions counselors at 1-800-255-8881.

In the end, the academic excellence of your TTU education will give you a very secure foundation upon which to build a successful future — regardless of the field of study you decide to pursue.