

Decision Matrix Tool: Exploring Majors

Step 1

List the majors you're considering as the row labels.

Step 2

List the criteria that you want to consider as the column labels.

Step 3 (Optional)

Decide whether any of your criteria should be given more "weight". For example, if the criteria "*Fits my Strengths*" is extremely important to you, you can give it "double-weight", or, "2". If none feel more important than others, no need to assign weights at all!

Step 4

Next, score each major according to the criteria of that column. The scoring scale is 1-5, with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best.

Step 5 (Optional)

If the criteria is weighted, multiple each score by the weight.

Step 6




Add up the scores for each major.

Step 7

Reflect on the results. If you feel the top-scoring major actually isn't what you expected, reflect on the criteria and weightings you used. If several majors scored very close to each other, it may be a sign that you should find out more about them and do a deeper analysis.

Majors Decision Matrix Tool EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE ONLY

		<i>Score with a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the worst and 5 the best</i>				
MAJORS 	CRITERIA 	<i>Passion</i> <i>(5 = I love it! Classes are enjoyable! ; 1 = So boring)</i>	<i>Fits my Strengths</i> <i>(5 = I'm good at the work; 1 = It's difficult and a struggle for me)</i>	<i>Space for Flexibility</i> <i>(5 = I have space in my schedule to take interesting classes outside the major or spend time on other priorities in life; 1 = I'll have to cut out other things I want to do)</i>	<i>Future Career</i> <i>(5 = Research I've done shows this is good preparation for what I want to do in the future; 1 = Not good preparation for future plans.)</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
	OPTIONAL WEIGHTS 	<i>Weight x2</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	
Business and Finance		3 x 2=6	3	2	3	14
Business and Marketing		3 x 2=6	3	2	5	16
IMA		3 x 2=6	3	5	2	16
Economics		3 x 2=6	2	2	4	14
Social Science		4 x 2=8	4	5	3	20
Global China Studies		4 x 2=8	4	5	3	20

Majors Decision Matrix Tool Template

		<i>Score with a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the worst and 5 the best</i>				
MAJORS	CRITERIA	Criteria 1	Criteria 2	Criteria 3	Criteria 4	<i>TOTAL</i>
	OPTIONAL WEIGHTS					
Major 1:						
Major 2:						
Major 3:						
Major 4:						
Major 5:						
Major 6:						

Exploring Majors: Personal Action Plan

Freshmen have the opportunity to declare a major by April 6, 2016. However, it is not required and you can still change your major at any time.

Possible Actions: Check off the ones you will do.

- Ask for advice from many different people
- Research the career journeys of people and jobs that you find interesting
- Take surveys and read books and articles to identify your strengths and interests
- Read about all the Major Requirements on the Academic Advising Website (wp.nyu.edu/shanghai-academicadvising)
- Plan out possible Four Year Plans
- Research Academics at Study Away Sites
- Do the Decision Matrix

List at least 3 people whom you will ask for advice:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Brainstorm at least 5 questions to ask them:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.