Lycoming College Academic Choices

The selection of a major is one of the most crucial decisions of a college career. A major is an area of focus related to one or more disciplines around which academic study is centered. Lycoming College offers 50 departmental majors and 4 established individual interdisciplinary majors within 5 concentration areas. The concentration areas are broad subject areas within which fields of study are categorized. Interdisciplinary major draws from courses offered in two or more departments.

With so many options, the choice of a major may seem overwhelming; however by approaching a major decision by first determining which of the five concentrations are of greatest interest, the choice becomes more manageable. After identifying the concentration area(s) of interest, the list of major options is narrowed to the majors within the identified concentrations areas.

In making a major decision, one must remember that while the selection of a major gives focus to academic study, this focus does not limit occupational prospects. The skills obtained while pursuing course work within the major are transferable to many areas of employment and advanced study. The response then, to "what can I do with a major in biology?" is anything. This is the value of a liberal arts education.

Below is a list of the five concentrations areas and the majors that are categorized within these areas. Each major is classified within one of the concentration areas; however, often there is significant overlap within the concentrations areas. This list provides a general framework within which the major decision may be approached.

**Fine Arts: The Study of those things that appeal to the imagination, and one's sense of beauty.**

**Studio Art:** the study of imagination and expression in the visual arts including its context and composition.  
(Concentration: Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Commercial Design, Generalist, & Photography/Electronic Art)

**Music:** the study of imagination and expression in music including its context and composition.

**Theatre:** is the art of collaboration.  
(Concentration: Acting, Directing, & Design/Tech)

**Humanities: The cultural perspective of people related to the ongoing search for answers about personal identity, the origins of humankind, and the meaning of life and destiny.**

**American Studies:** the study of America from a variety of perspectives including: sociological change, social institutions and cultural values.  
(Concentration: American Arts & American Society)

**Archaeology and Culture of the Ancient Near East:** Explore the cradle of western civilization through travel, digs, and a menu of courses that combines the resources of several departments -- from Anthropology, Art, Economics and Geology to History, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religion.

**Art History:** the study of the visual arts in Ancient, Medieval and Non-western fields through the art's form, content, function and meaning within a respective culture.

**Communication:** the study of the social, historical and cultural roles of the media through writing, research and oral presentations.  
(Concentration: Corporate Communication, Electronic Media & Media Writing)

**English:** the study of literary imagination and expression in literary texts including: their contexts, and composition.  
(Concentration: Literature & Creative Writing)

**Modern Language Studies:** Modern technology enhances language study at Lycoming. Our language laboratory is designed as a video theater in which satellite television brings foreign culture directly to students.  
(Concentration: French, German, & Spanish)

**History:** the study of social, political, and economic development of states, cultures and diverse societies from various points of view through primary research, interpretation, and statistical analysis.

**International Studies:** the study of international relations of European countries through an examination of economics, history, and social and political environments.

**Literature:** the study of any two-literature traditions from English, French, German, or Spanish.

**Philosophy:** the study of concepts and suppositions around which we organize our thought including morality, law, religion, science, education, and the arts.

**Religion:** the study of concepts of God, religious symbolism, and phenomena beyond reason.  
(Specialties: Greek, Hebrew)

(Continued on Reverse)
Social Sciences: The scientific study of people, their activities, customs, and institutions in relationship to others.

Criminal Justice: is an interdisciplinary social science program. Course work leading to this baccalaureate degree will provide students with strong communication and analytical skills.

Political Science: the study of government and politics at the international, national, state and local levels through theoretical, empirical, historical and normative approaches. (Concentration: American Politics, Legal Studies & World Politics)

Psychology: the scientific study of behavior and mental processes including: learning, intelligence, motivation, memory, perception, social interaction, and judgement processes.

Sociology-Anthropology: the study of how human beings live in groups and societies through an exploration of the commitments of social beings, the production of values, beliefs and behavioral systems. (Concentration: Sociology-Anthropology & Human Services in a Socio-Cultural Perspective)

Math Science: The study of numbers, measurements and space, and the relationship of quantities as expressed in numbers and symbols.

Accounting: Lycoming offers both a 150 and 128 credit hour accounting program. The 150 hour program is fast becoming the industry standard for becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). The 128 hour accounting degree for those students who do not necessarily plan to work in auditing or public accounting.

Accounting-Mathematical Sciences: It is an area of math that defines, analyzes, and solves business problems involving the likelihood of possible future events.

Actuarial Mathematics: the study of the probability of future events from a business prospective through the application of mathematical skills to define, analyze and solve problems.

Business Administration: the study of business in modern society including social and economic roles of business, and management techniques by commercial and non-commercial organizations. (Concentration: Financial, Marketing, General Management and International Business)

Computer Science: the study of microcomputers including problem solving, computer programming, data structures, numerical analysis, computer graphics, and database systems.

Economics: the study of the economy and economic systems and the actions of individuals and business firms through theoretical, statistical and historical approaches. (Concentrations: Managerial Economics, General Economics & Quantitative Economics.)

Mathematics: the study of numbers, measurements, and space, and the relationship of quantities as expressed in numbers and symbols.

Natural sciences: The study of nature and the physical world through observation, description, and explanations of the information gathered.

Astronomy: The astronomy major is designed to train students in the field of planetarium education and may serve as a basis for state certification as a secondary school teacher of general science.

Physics: the study of changes in space and time together with changes in energy and matter.

Biology: the scientific study of life and the environment including ecological systems, form and function in organisms, cell theory, molecular biology, reproduction, inheritance, and adaptation through observation, experimentation, and analysis. (Concentrations: Environmental Management, Medical Technology)

Chemistry: the scientific study of matter including: its composition, structure, properties and transformations of natural and humanly made substances through observation and analysis.

Education: the study of teaching as a profession including the economic, social, political and religious conditions that influence American schools and teachers: (PA Teaching Certification available in elementary, secondary & special education)

Individual Interdisciplinary Majors: Students may design majors that are unique to their needs and objectives and which combine coursework in more than one department. Individual interdisciplinary majors are developed in consultation with a student's academic advisor and with a panel of faculty from each of the sponsoring departments. (Examples: Legal Studies, Western History and Archaeology, Women and the Legal System, Religion and Marketing, and Women's Studies)

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