

FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE CHOOSING A MAJOR or CAREER

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IN WHAT SEQUENCE SHOULD THE FOLLOWING CHOICES BE MADE?

1. **Career** – *What do I want to do?*
2. **Major/Career Pathway** – *What major is going to make me the most marketable?*
3. **College/Career Training** – *What colleges offer that major? Where can I get the training I need for this career?*

WHERE IS YOUR PASSION?

- Skills
- Personality
- Values
- Interests/Passions
- Career goal needs to be a good match for you.

HOW MUCH EDUCATION IS REQUIRED?

- On the Job Training
- Certification?
- Associate's Degree?
- Bachelor's Degree?
- Master's or Doctorate Degree
- Do I even LIKE school??
- 1-2 years or 6-10 years?

Let's Compare and Discuss.....

Aerospace Engineer

- **Bachelor's Degree or Master's**
- **Low Annual Salary--\$79,940**
- **Median Annual Salary--\$132,770**
- **Career Cluster--Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math**

<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Wages/find-salary.aspx?keyword=Aerospace%20Engineers&soccode=172011&location=35806>

Aerospace Engineering Technician

- **Associate's Degree**
- **Low Annual Salary--\$49,560**
- **Median Annual Salary--\$75,670**
- **Career Cluster--Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math**
- **Career Cluster--Manufacturing**

<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Wages/find-salary.aspx?keyword=Aerospace%20Engineering%20and%20Operations%20Technicians&soccode=173021&location=35806>

WHAT IS THE MARKET?

- What jobs are in my area?
- What are new industries/companies?
- Where are the labor market needs?
- Is it a high demand career area?

HOW FLEXIBLE IS THE CAREER?

- Will this pathway lead to my career goal?
- Is it specific or broad?
- Where are the opportunities for growth?

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED SALARY?

- What is the real entry level salary for someone in this field?
- Is it enough to support myself and fund my future goals?
- How much money is enough for me?
- Can I save, spend, and share with this income?

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT COLLEGES/CAREERS

- Which college/trade school has the program I need?
- What are the admissions requirements?—ACT, SAT, GPA
- What is the tuition per credit hour? In State vs Out of State
- What scholarship opportunities exist based on my ACT/SAT?
Community/Leadership Scholarships?
- Does my major require an internship opportunity? Do you have a contact in program specific departments?
- What type of qualifications do I need to get hired?
- Is this career area in high demand?

What Opportunities are available to me as a High School Student

Career Tech Classes

Fine Art Classes

ACT Prep classes

Clubs

KTECH

Madison City Welding Program

Academy of Craft Training

Dual Enrollment

Honors or AP Classes

Calhoun Workforce Opportunities

Athletics

CEO Program

Co-Op

Internships- Career Pathway Project

Useful resources

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College & Career Research and Assessments

<https://alabamacareerplanningsystem.com/>

www.careeronestop.org

www.mymajors.com

www.bls.gov

www.onetonline.org

<https://calhoun.lightcastcc.com/assessment>

www.onetcenter.org/tools