

Introduction

They Teach That in Community College!? provides information about interesting, lucrative, and cutting-edge college majors unknown to many counselors, educators, and parents. It includes profiles of 70 college majors and schools, course listings, potential employers, contact information for colleges and universities that offer these programs, professional associations that offer career information about these fields, and interviews with educators in the field. We hope that *They Teach That in Community College!?* becomes a valued and trusted resource as you navigate the challenges of college!

How This Book is Organized

The book has 70 main chapters—66 of which focus on unique and interesting majors and four of which focus on schools that are especially unique for reasons as varied as offering special instruction for students with learning disabilities (Beacon College and Landmark College), to offering assistance to deaf and hard-of-hearing students (National Technical Institute for the Deaf), to offering free college tuition (Deep Springs College).

Now that we've explained what a unique college is, you might be asking yourself, 'What is a unique major?' We used two official criterion to select majors to include in this book: 1) the major had to be fast-growing and offer good employment and salary prospects for students, and 2) the major had to be offered at less than 30 percent of community colleges in the United States. A third unofficial criterion was that the major had to capture our imagination—in short it had to be fun and, hopefully, interesting to our readers.

The following paragraphs provide an overview of the specific subsections that are contained in the unique major and school chapters:

The unique major chapters have the following subsections: 1) an opening paragraph that details the major in question; 2) a list of typical courses that students will take if they study the major; 3) a list of potential employers of students who study the major; 4) a list of schools that offer the major [(each entry includes contact information and the degree levels—such as certificate, diploma, and associate—that are available for the major) (note: some colleges may also offer bachelor's and master's degrees; in these cases, they are also listed)]; and, 5) a list of professional organizations that you can contact for more information on the field.

They Teach That in Community College

The unique schools chapters have the following subsections: 1) an opening paragraph that details the school in question; 2) a list of majors that are offered; and, 3) contact information for the school in question.

Additionally, both types of articles occasionally feature interviews with college educators. These educators offer an overview of their programs, suggest high school classes that will help you prepare for college, present information on the future of their fields, and provide other useful advice.

In addition to the aforementioned sections, *They Teach That in Community College!* also features three appendices (Community Colleges in the United States by State, Top Community Colleges, Community College Associations) and three indexes (School, Schools by State, Association/Organization).

Finally . . . Important Things to Keep in Mind

Remember that the world of education is constantly changing: majors may be renamed, available degree levels may change, programs may be dropped due to lack of funding, etc. Be sure to contact the school in which you are interested in attending for the latest program information.

Additionally, the Internet is also always changing. Websites are redesigned, new information is added . . . you get the idea. If you have trouble locating any of the websites listed in this book, try shortening the web address to its basic address. For example, if you are having trouble reaching Kirkwood Community College's agriculture website (<http://www.kirkwood.edu/agrisciences>), shortening the address to the University's most basic address (<http://www.kirkwood.edu>) will usually allow you to access the site and locate the information at the site's home page or by using its search feature.

Accreditation is the process of determining whether an educational institution or academic program meets standards set by regional or national organizations of professionals. We have made every attempt to list accredited programs in this book (but have also listed programs that are not yet accredited—or approved by professional associations—if the number of schools that are accredited within a specific field is small). Since a good education is key to success in the workplace, be sure to investigate the accreditation status of the program in which you are interested. Attending an unaccredited program MAY limit your ability to transfer credits (if you plan to transfer to a four-year program to continue your education) and perhaps reduce employment opportunities.