

Introduction

Business, Social Sciences/History, and Education are the most popular college majors today, but not every student has the interest or aptitude to be successful in these fields. Additionally, many of these fields are glutted with graduates who are forced to take lower-paying jobs or positions that are unrelated to their field of study.

They Teach That in College!?: Midwest Edition provides information about interesting, lucrative, and cutting-edge college majors unknown to many counselors, educators, and parents. It includes profiles of more than 65 college majors, 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.

They Teach That in College!?: Midwest Edition includes coverage of unique and interesting college programs in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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How This Book is Organized

They Teach That in College!? has 66 main chapters, which focus on unique and interesting majors. 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 25 percent of colleges and universities in the Midwest. 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 each chapter:

Each chapter has the following subsections: 1) an opening paragraph that details the major in question, classroom activities, and the typical educational path for students who pursue study in this field; 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 colleges and universities in the Midwest that offer the major

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[each entry includes contact information and the degree levels—such as certificate, associate, advanced certificate (which requires the individual to have earned an associate or bachelor's degree prior to pursuing study toward the certificate), bachelor's, master's, and doctorate—that are available for the major]; and, 5) a list of professional associations and organizations that you can contact for more information (e.g., career information, lists of accredited college programs, job shadowing, free publications, financial aid, etc.).

Additionally, many chapters feature interviews with college educators. These educators provide 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 other useful advice.

In addition to the aforementioned sections, *They Teach That in College!?: Midwest Edition* also features a school index, a schools by state index, and an association/organization index.

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Finally . . . Important Issues to Keep in Mind

Majors Are Always Changing. Remember that the world of education is constantly changing: majors may be renamed, available degree levels may change, programs may be dropped due to budget cuts, etc. Use this book as a starting place for your career and college exploration, but be sure to contact the school in which you are interested in attending for the latest program information.

The Internet Is Always Changing. You probably know this already, but websites are constantly updated—course schedules change, contact information is revised, majors are added or deleted. . . . 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 the University of Wisconsin's art therapy website (http://www.uwsuper.edu/admissions/factsheets/art_therapy.htm), shortening the address to the University's most basic address (e.g., <http://www.uwsuper.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. If this doesn't work, try a keyword search using the name of the college or call the college or association to ask for its current website address and other information.

The Importance of Accreditation. Accreditation is the process of determining whether an educational institution or academic program meets standards set by regional or national organizations of profession-

als. All quality colleges are accredited, and most, but not all, academic programs (such as those in petroleum engineering or art therapy, for example) also receive accreditation from accrediting bodies. We have made every attempt to list accredited programs in this book (but also list unaccredited programs to provide you with a wide selection of education options). 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 are attending a two-year college and plan to transfer to a four-year program to continue your education) and perhaps reduce employment opportunities.

Online Education. A small number of these programs are currently available online, but, due to the fast-changing nature of online education, we have excluded these programs from the book. If you are interested in online education options, visit the program's website or contact the admissions offices of colleges in which you are interested in attending for more information.

We hope that *They Teach That in College!?: Midwest Edition* becomes a valued and trusted resource as you navigate the challenges of selecting a college major! We wish you the best in all of your future endeavors!

The Editors