FOUR QUESTIONS

FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND COUNSELORS

By: Meri Kock ■

oday's counselors know that college planning for today's students is not the same college planning performed by baby boomers or their children. Students today cannot get a liberal arts degree and be absorbed into management positions as many students of the 1970s experienced. While some high school students may resist parental advice on career and college planning, counselors often stand in the gap and bridge the two while offering their own advice to help students navigate their way through high school and into college.



- 1. What resources are available to help me determine majors that might be the best fit for me?
- 2. How important is it to declare a major when applying for college admission?
- 3. What are the advantages or disadvantages of applying as an undecided or undeclared major?
- 4. I have a general idea of what I want to do for a career, where can I find out the best major(s) that will help me reach my goal?



PARENTS TO STUDENTS:

- 1. Thinking about the activities you do now, what is it about them that you truly enjoy?
- 2. In looking back over your years in school, what subjects, and what assignments in those subjects, got you excited?
- 3. Assuming you've asked your counselor for resources to explore majors, have you used those resources yet?
- 4. I'm not going to do the work for you, but I do want to help and support you. What does help and support look like to you? Meaning, what do you want me to do and how involved do you want me to be?



COUNSELORS TO FAMILIES:

- 1. Have you had an open and honest conversation with your child about the business side of college, meaning cost, distance from home, level of support you're able to provide, and your expectations of your child while he or she is attending?
- 2. What are your concerns regarding your student's post-secondary plans or choices?
- 3. What information would you like to have to help your student with their choices and plans?
- 4. If workshops and programs were offered to help with college planning, what topics would you like to see addressed?