

Letter: Make most of educational opportunities

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The April 16 Guest View editorial "Survey says choose your degree wisely" encourages college students to seek "...degree programs that both mesh with personal interests and aspirations and fill expected demands in the job market." The April 26 letter to the editor reminds students that "...the benefits of a liberal arts education can be unexpectedly practical..." Both pieces of advice are sound ones. However, the one advantage professional arts majors have over those in the liberal arts is the built in practical experience that usually comes with that type of degree.

Generally, liberal arts majors must create those out-of-classroom experiences for themselves while pursuing their degree by joining student organizations, becoming engaged in the campus or local community as well as seeking job-shadow or internship experiences, so that they learn how to put the communication and problem-solving skills learned in their liberal arts courses to real life practice. Liberal arts majors should not feel obligated to find a career directly connected to their major. Study what you are passionate about (even ancient Greek philosophy!). Only then will you truly develop the transferable skills employers are looking for.

Just as an academic transcript reflects four years of coursework, your resume upon graduation should reflect four years of activities that demonstrate your skills in action. Visit your campus academic department, career services, involvement/employment, residential living and study abroad offices, just to name a few, in your freshmen-sophomore year to get started.

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