

## WHAT IF YOUR BEST COLLEGE MAJOR IS THE WRONG ONE FOR YOU?

There's no way! I had done all the research. I'd looked at the finances, the scholarships funds available, and the graduation rates. I had taken all the aptitude tests and attended the required number of career events, My guidance counselor agreed that my plan was leveraging my proven academic strengths and he fully expected me to graduate from my program with honors (which I did). And yet, there was always this feeling in the back of my mind...

I was a math geek. I aced all my classes and then some. Numbers always made perfect sense to me, even in the most abstract equations, so an engineering degree seemed like the most logical choice for me – stick with what you're good at, right?

I even completed my degree early while some of my buddies took six years instead of the regular four. I was hired straight out of college into a great job with a good salary and promotion prospects.

I lasted six months.

My parents had helped me financially in college, along with some scholarship money, but I still came up a little short each month. Rather than get stuck with a bunch of student loans, I decided to get a job working as a commis chef (that's a polite French term for a 'gopher' to the executive chef who does everything from washing dishes to hopefully learning skills from the experienced master). I won't lie – it was very hard work, especially at the end of a long day of classes and studying in the library. The money wasn't great either, but for some strange reason, I absolutely loved it – learning the recipes, tasting the food, developing my own palate, and experimenting with my own recipes – I was hooked!

Suddenly the engineering work that I could do with my eyes closed lost all interest for me. It became routine and dull, and I found myself counting the hours until my next shift at the restaurant.

Things didn't get any better when I started my job. Spending hours in front of a computer or in meetings to discuss various specifications of a design suddenly felt like torture. It got to the point where I hated getting up in the morning.

What was really crazy was that I kept that commis chef job after college – even after starting my engineering job, so that I could keep my cooking skills up – how nuts is that?

As I said, I lasted six months before handing in my resignation and scraping enough money together from savings and loans from family and friends to start my own bistro. I knew all the statistics about the odds of success in this industry (I am still a math geek) but I can't imagine doing anything else and I love coming to work every day.

The darkest point was having to tell my parents about my decision. They said they understood and completely supported my choice, but I'm sure that somewhere, deep down, they're still thinking about the cost of that engineering degree.

Looking back, I wish I had taken the time to fully consider all my options rather than just leveraging my academic skills. It scares me sometimes to think that if I didn't have the courage to quit my job, I'd still be working for that company, probably with a couple of promotions under my belt, and I would still be miserable.

When the time came for my daughter to make her choice of major, I made sure she took a personality profile test to get all her questions answered. She's in the final year of a veterinary program now and she couldn't be happier. It was the best \$300 bucks I ever spent – no doubt about it!

#### A PERSONAL MBTI PACKAGE

If you are struggling with the decision to select a college major (a decision that will have a dramatic impact on the future direction of your working life), consider investing the time to learn as much about yourself as you can. *My Best Major* will arrange for you to take the assessment online, and then give you a personal, one-on-one review of your MBTI results along with a list of suggested majors (based on that assessment) and a corresponding list of colleges currently offering those majors – and all for the amazingly low price of only \$299.

If you are ready to equip yourself with the best information to take the next step on to a college program that's a right choice for you, click on the link below to take advantage of our New Year Promotion and get \$50 off our regular \$299 package price.