

# The Choice of a Lifetime

"I want to be a doctor! Actually, I want this major now and this job!" College graduates are famously indecisive about their job choices and desire several different ones. Getting a degree is hard enough, but how hard is it to get a job afterwards? In addition, according to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and the U.S. Department of Labor, around 53.6 percent of bachelor degree holders were unemployed or jobless in 2011. The road to obtaining a job after college can be a long and difficult one.

BARRY CHEUNG Staff Writer

## Test your Collegial Knowledge

JADE LIEU  
Staff Writer

### TRUE OR FALSE

- 35% of recent college graduates are the first in their family to earn a bachelor's degree.
- More than 70% of college students change their course of study/major at some point during college.

- Which is the most popular college major?
  - Psychology
  - Business
  - Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
  - Nursing

4. DID YOU KNOW? A bachelor's degree adds about \$15,000 in earning potential to a recent graduate's average salary.

Answers: 1. False; it's 20%; 2. True; 3. B  
Sources: Collegeboard, AllAboutCollege

## Degrees for Dollars

JOSEPH NEY-JUN Staff Writer

In the past decade, U.S. unemployment rates have risen to their highest level since the recession of the 1980's, with an unemployment rate of 10.1 percent in October 2009. As of Feb., the unemployment rate is 6.7 percent and slowly declining, but what caused it to reach that height in the first place, and what spell for high school and college graduates?

In late 2008, the Great Recession shook the global economy, triggered by the burst of the U.S. Housing Bubble. Due to new policies put forward by American banks, housing costs from 1999 to 2007 rose exponentially. When neither the banks and their clients nor the government could keep the money flowing from a combination of loans and investments, the U.S. entered a recession and the world with it.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Labor, in 2011, 53.6 percent of college graduates holding bachelor's degrees under the age of 25 were unemployed. Furthermore, 8.7 million jobs were eliminated between February, 2008 and February, 2010. This drop in possible opportunities for employment made any available job all the more valuable in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the growing number of graduates continues to compound the issue at hand, and only adds to the backlog of workers. Jobs cannot be instantly restored; even as the market is healing, it still cannot compensate for the ever growing number of available workers.

## Are You Smarter Than a College Student?

JENNY LEE  
Features Editor

Every child in present-day times is expected to attend college. Failing high school simply means going to community college. However, college is no cheap road and sometimes, students graduate college and obtain jobs that are irrelevant to their area of study.

As students with a degree in higher education become more prevalent, employment prerequisites have gradually climbed. Students who dive into college with undeclared majors should be especially careful; those with undeclared majors often spend additional semesters or years in college to meet the classes required for the major they eventually choose. As a result, student debt also piles up.

Forbes published an article in 2012 on "the 10 worst college majors," determined by unemployment rates and low initial earnings. The ten listed majors are listed in the following order: anthropology and archeology; film, video and photographic arts; fine arts; philosophy and religious studies; liberal arts; music; physical fitness and parks recreation; commercial art and graphic design; history; and English language and literature.

Of course, there is more to the story than simply numbers. Liberal arts majors often do fine because many careers acknowledge the fact that applying information across interdisciplinary studies is a necessary skill. In fact, most are satisfied with where they end up. No major guarantees employments, but certain majors do guarantee better opportunities.

MOOR graphics by SYDNEY LI

The MOOR Weekly  
101 South Second Street, Alhambra, CA 91801

The Moor Weekly serves as one of the checks and balances of district and school policies. It is an open forum for the campus population and one of the records of Alhambra High School's history. The Moor Weekly is not a vehicle for the promotion of any school organization, individual and/or activity, including those promoted via paid advertisement, none of which are supported or endorsed by the Alhambra Unified School District. The Moor Weekly is protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and California Education Code 49007 and 49950.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and can be delivered to C-225, or The Moor Weekly's suggestion box in the Activities Office at 1015 10th Street. For legal reasons, The Moor Weekly cannot publish letters written anonymously but can withhold the name of the writer at their request. The Moor Weekly also reserves the right to refuse publication when the opinions expressed or issues discussed have been previously addressed or of no relevance to the campus community and/or surrounding areas as deemed by the Editorial Board.

Note: Issues reviewed by advisors for content and journalism standards.

### EDITORS

- Editors in Chief**  
Olivia Cheung, Caroline Ren
- News Editors**  
Diana Li, Denise Tieu
- Opinions Editors**  
Susanna Aiga, Angela Yang
- Features Editors**  
Jenny Lee, Sylvia Winston
- Sports Editors**  
Nate Garcia, Kevin Kong
- Copy Editors**  
Deborah Chen, Janet Guan
- Journalism Adviser**  
Mark Padilla

### WRITERS

- Barry Cheung
- Anhayte Guajardo
- Elton Ho
- Simeon Lam
- Jade Lieu
- Shelley Lin
- Jacquelyn Loi
- Cindy Luo
- Joseph Ney-Jun
- Briana Thai
- Wesley Tsai
- Kayiu Wong
- Derek Wu
- Rebecca Zeng

### PHOTOGRAPHERS AND GRAPHIC ARTISTS

- Head Photographer**  
Yibei Liu
- Photographer**  
Shannon Kha
- Graphics Editor**  
Simon Zhao
- Graphic Artists**  
Sydney Li, Gen Thipatima

### CARTOONISTS

- Head Cartoonist**  
Jacqueline Chau
- Cartoonist**  
Carmen Le

### WEB MASTERS

- Jenny Lee
- Assistant Web Masters**  
Cindy Luo  
Rebecca Zeng

### BUSINESS AND CIRCULATIONS

- Business Manager:** Jacqueline Chau
- Circulations Manager:** Anhayte Guajardo