

STEM:

Don't Fall for These 6 Traps



STEM: Don't Fall for These Traps

Majoring in STEM equips students with critical thinking, problem solving, creative and collaborative skills ... and ultimately creates a foundation for success in many career fields.

As you may already know, STEM includes areas of study in *Science, Technology, Engineering & Math*. Careers in any of these fields are in high demand and have become so popular that **40%** of students entered college this year declaring majors in one of these disciplines.

One of the easiest ways to avoid many potential problems today is to simply be aware of them. In this video and Handout, we'll cover 6 common traps to avoid if you are considering majoring in a STEM field.



#1 – STEM isn't for Everyone

Do you enjoy *and* have an aptitude for one of these majors? If so, it could be a great fit. Here is just one of many sites to help determine what career fields may be best for you. [O*NET Interest Profiler at My Next Move](#)

#2 – STEM Can Cause High Stress Levels

Recent studies also show that students majoring in STEM currently have higher levels of stress & depression. Here are just a few of the reasons given for this trend:

- Highly competitive
- Challenging subject matter
- Tougher grading
- Requires more study time
- Extra lab work & collaborative projects

#3 – STEM Students May Drop Out

The 3rd trap is that too many students go into STEM because it's popular or has excellent jobs prospects, but without an aptitude for it, they quickly feel overwhelmed. This has led to *drop-out rates* as high as **50%**! Unfortunately, it's not that *college* wasn't right for them ... they merely selected the wrong major.



#4 – STEM is New to Some Schools

Another problem is that STEM is relatively new to some schools ... leading to many of the problems listed here, all of which can add thousands to your estimated college costs!

- Shortage of professors
- Difficult to schedule classes
- Take longer to graduate
- Add thousands to your costs!
- Quality education may be missing

#5 – STEM Majors Aren't Prepared for the Job Market

The ultimate goal of college is to obtain a great *job* offer, but many schools aren't preparing students for today's job market. A new Study by the **Harvard Business Review** found **53%** of college Grads do not apply for jobs in their field because they feel unqualified. Here are just a few of the critical questions to ask to ensure you'll have the skills employers expect in the graduates they hire.

- What's the expertise of professors?
- Do professors have real-life work experience?
- How frequently is the curriculum updated?
- Are there live lab or collaborative projects?
- What job skills will I have upon graduation?
- Do they facilitate Internships?
- Do they work with or provide connections to employers looking for STEM graduates?



#6 – STEM Jobs are Not Located in Every Market

And finally, will STEM jobs be available where you want to live? Too many students complete their education without researching the availability of STEM jobs where they want to live. Here are just a few job sites to explore. Review them *now – and throughout your academic life* – to see who is hiring, where the jobs are, and the skills employers will look for in new grads.

- [STEM Jobs - Your STEM Career & Hiring Network - STEM Careers Center](#)
- [Find Jobs in Technology \(dice.com\)](#)
- [Job Search | Indeed](#)
- [Dashboard | ZipRecruiter](#)
- [Monster Jobs - Job Search, Career Advice & Hiring Resources | Monster.com](#)
- [FlexJobs: Best Remote Jobs, Work from Home Jobs, Online Jobs & More](#)

Jobs in STEM will continue to expand and grow in the future. We hope you found learning about these common traps helpful as you explore *this* ... and other exciting new career opportunities.