

NOTE: This is the transcript of the audio that is posted on the website as “ADMISSIONS PODCAST EPISODE 2”, however it is spoken that it is Number 3.

Transcript of Admissions Podcast Episode 2

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DENNIS MILLER: Welcome to Admissions Tips, Podcast number three. I'm your host, Dennis Miller. And I talk with Admissions Director Brian Barden, who shares tips on finding the right college and then getting the most out of your college experience. Today, we talk about dual majors.

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DENNIS MILLER: Okay Brian, something that's not talked about a lot, but is really important, I would think, for some students at least is a dual major. Talk to me about that.

BRIAN BARDEN: Dual major. I always tell students the more you can add to your educational portfolio or your academic portfolio, in other words really that resume that you hand to a perspective employer, the greater the opportunities you're going to have to land that job, especially that first job. And I think that's one of the most difficult jobs to land.

DENNIS MILLER: That's the toughie.

BRIAN BARDEN: And again, if I have experience in one area and I can add experience from another area, then that prospective employer is getting two for one.

DENNIS MILLER: All right. Give me an example of what you're talking about.

BRIAN BARDEN: Okay, you take a Computer Science major, and there are a variety of dual majors that you could possibly add to that. One of them would be a foreign language, a second language, which would certainly make you very marketable in terms of that. Perhaps you want to think about adding a second major in business.

DENNIS MILLER: Such as?

BRIAN BARDEN: Well, Business Administration or Business Management or Business Marketing or Accounting, especially if the individual is thinking about utilizing their computer skills in the business arena. And so as a student applies for those jobs, not only do they have the background in computer science, but they also have an understanding of business. So you already come to a prospective employer miles ahead of someone else.

DENNIS MILLER: Sure, there's that much training that they're not going to have to have.

BRIAN BARDEN: That's right, exactly.

DENNIS MILLER: Also with that particular combination, a student could in a few years, I would think, go out and start his or her own business.

BRIAN BARDEN: And many students do.

DENNIS MILLER: Do they?

BRIAN BARDEN: You know there's a few individuals, let's see, is it Bill Gates?

DENNIS MILLER: Ah, yeah.

BRIAN BARDEN: And others. We could list them. But other individuals who have started their own businesses and are literally multimillionaires.

DENNIS MILLER: Or in Bill Gates' case, the richest man in the world.

BRIAN BARDEN: Right. Exactly.

DENNIS MILLER: Did he go to Mansfield?

BRIAN BARDEN: You know, I'll have to go back and check.

DENNIS MILLER: You should check on that.

BRIAN BARDEN: Yes, I should check on that.

DENNIS MILLER: By the way, these sounds [knock] like that. They're showing up in shows. And so people have got to know these microphones are really sensitive. And every time you bump the desk, or I bump the desk like I just did, you're getting the sounds. And I'm not taking them out. I'm leaving them in there for the reality factor.

BRIAN BARDEN: So that dual major really can enhance the opportunities for students to, again, land that first job.

DENNIS MILLER: Well, again, this is not a new concept, but maybe one that high school parents and students haven't thought of. Give me a couple of more examples as we go around.

BRIAN BARDEN: Well, a prime example would be education. And we wouldn't necessarily call it a dual major. We would call it dual certification, whereby an individual may be certified in elementary and also have certification in special education or early childhood. Or again, we keep coming back to this second language, maybe certification in Spanish if you're going to teaching in schools that have high Latino populations.

DENNIS MILLER: Yeah, if you had an education degree plus Spanish, you can go anywhere.

BRIAN BARDEN: Oh, you really could. I would think you would be able to write your ticket in terms of the kinds of experiences and the places you'd want to go for that kind of thing. So we're looking at that.

Let's look at communications. We offer some excellent programs in Broadcasting, Public Relations. Why not throw in a degree in maybe English with Public Relations, which would allow you then the writing skills and the experiences that would help you be a great PR person, like Dennis Miller? Do you know Dennis Miller?

DENNIS MILLER: I've heard of that man. I've tracked his whole career from comments that I get every week. But yeah, you're absolutely right. Sure, English and Public Relations, I hadn't thought about that combination. But that would open up a lot of jobs, and a lot of entry level jobs, I would think, because again that person, that graduate has a background in English plus that whole area of communications and public relation skills.

BRIAN BARDEN: And again, Dennis, it's that first job, landing that first job. And so the more you can bring to a prospective employer, the greater liberty I guess you want to say, that you have as a student in terms of maybe picking a choosing that first job. Where you want to be. What you want to do.

DENNIS MILLER: That's certainly a better position than not being able to get a job at all.

BRIAN BARDEN: Right.

DENNIS MILLER: Let's talk about science, for a minute. We've kind of been ignoring the sciences. If you're a Biology major, what might be another dual major?

BRIAN BARDEN: Well certain, oh my, there are a number of things you could do with biology or any of the sciences. Computer science comes to mind immediately in terms of if you're going to be working in a lab, are you going to be working on data and trying to track data and all that type of thing, certainly some background in computer science would be invaluable to you.

DENNIS MILLER: I hadn't thought about that.

BRIAN BARDEN: And certainly if you work in a lab these days, much of what you do involves utilization of computers.

DENNIS MILLER: So the more you know about computers, the better off you're going to be in the sciences.

BRIAN BARDEN: Absolutely. And let's say you're going to be a researcher. Again, I go back to that English. Wouldn't it be great to have some strong English writing skills as you write up your reports and present your findings and those kinds of things?

DENNIS MILLER: You know that's a really good point. And I need to make a note. That should be a subject of another conversation, because it's so important, the English, the communication, the basic writing skills in any occupation.

BRIAN BARDEN: In any occupation.

DENNIS MILLER: So let's talk about that sometime.

BRIAN BARDEN: Yeah, we could do a whole other--

DENNIS MILLER: Yeah, we should because it's important. Music. A music dual major?

BRIAN BARDEN: Okay, dual major in music. Let's take a Music Ed person. Let's talk about that dual certification. Perhaps they may want to pick up dual certification in elementary, so they could teach elementary if they wanted to or teach music. Many times with teachers, sometimes there are reorganizations. Sometimes there are layoffs within a school district. And so the more certifications you have, again, the greater the opportunities for you to maybe move around, depending on what the needs are within the district.

DENNIS MILLER: That's a very good point. I mean over the last few years they've restructured music programs, haven't they in high schools?

BRIAN BARDEN: Exactly.

DENNIS MILLER: Art programs? So you're saying the more certifications a teacher has, Okay, you're prepared to bounce or shift or--

BRIAN BARDEN: The greater flexibility the individual would have with that. Music and business is a wonderful combination. If you really want to run your own music business or music store or if you want to be a manager for a musical group, a business background would be an excellent combination with music.

DENNIS MILLER: I'm excited. If I was a college student, I'd be rushing right out there are finding another major.

BRIAN BARDEN: That's right. Exactly.