

Tips to help students choose a college major

Millions of students attend college after high school. The Education Data Initiative says there were 18,939,568 people enrolled in colleges in the United States in 2023.

At some point in their pursuit of post-secondary education, students will need to choose a major.

Choosing a major can be challenging for students who have various interests and/or did well in multiple subjects in high school. The good news is that once a major is chosen, it isn't set in stone. Many students change their majors as they are exposed to different coursework in college. Here are a few ideas for choosing a major.

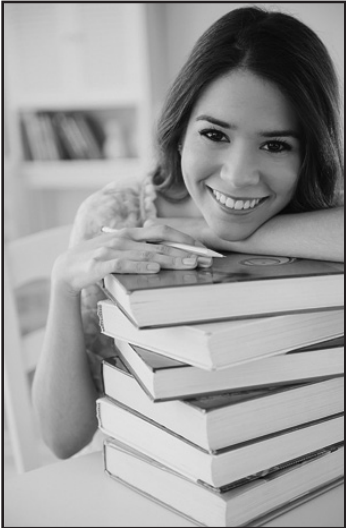
• **Don't be pressured by family.** Some students simply choose "the family business" route and select the same school and major as one or both of their parents. Make this a well-informed choice that considers various aspects and not just what Mom or Dad do for a living.

• **Select a subject you enjoy.** You do not want to be slugging through the next four or more years of school studying topics that bore you. Avoid potential burnout by choosing a major that interests you and offers a future.

• **Research a related industry.** Investigate which jobs have higher rates of openings and compare other factors like earning potential. While the goal is not simply to select the major that will lead to a job with the highest earning potential, you should consider majors that will lead to jobs that are stable and offer growth potential. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is a good start for data. It currently lists wind turbine service technicians and nurse practitioners as the fastest-growing occupations.

Donations for Sigdal Cemetery

Those wishing to make donations to help with the cost of tree replacement, upkeep, and general maintenance at Sigdal Cemetery are asked to send them to: Sigdal Cemetery Fund, 9343 24th St NE, Tolna, ND 58380.



• **Determine how rigorous coursework will be.** Some majors feature more rigorous coursework than others. If you know that marathon study sessions and lots of research or writing projects are going to lead to extensive stress, it is probably best to consider another course of study. Indiana University Bloomington determined the most difficult majors based on the average time students spent per week preparing included architecture, chemical engineering and aeronautical engineering.

Public relations, communications and criminal justice were among the less demanding majors, though it's important to note that excelling in any course of study requires hard work and commitment.

• **Check in with your academic advisor.** Academic advisors can guide you by offering career assessment quizzes and going over your grades. Such assessments may reveal skills that align well with certain fields of study.

• **Delay the decision.** If you truly do not know what you want to study, enroll in school undeclared. This will give you a chance to explore some general education "core" classes and feel out a school before making a larger commitment. Typically colleges will require a declaration of major by the end of sophomore year to allow enough time for completing that major's required courses.

-metrocreativeconnection

Memorable moments in NCAA Tournament history

College basketball fans have it made each March.

Come March, scores of college hoops fans anxiously anticipate the tipoff to March Madness, which is a widely used nickname for the wildly popular NCAA Tournament, a single-elimination battle featuring 68 teams competing over seven rounds. Each team aspires to win the championship, but only one can walk away with the elusive trophy. That reality ups the ante with each game, and many a nail-biter and memorable moment has taken center stage during the tournament over the years.

As this year's round of madness prepares to tip off, fans can look back at these memorable moments from tournaments past and ponder the many others that have made March such a fun, if frenzied, month.

MEN'S TOURNAMENTS

• Princeton knocks off UCLA, March 14, 1996: Bruins fans may not find this moment all that memorable, but the thirteenth-seeded Tigers' improbable upset of the defending national champions is among the most notable moments in NCAA Tournament history. Princeton's 43-41 win marked the final victory of legendary coach Pete Carril's career, and perhaps no newspaper better summarized the upset than Princeton's student newspaper, The Daily Princetonian, which featured the memorable headline "David 43, Goliath 41" the morning after the game.

• "The Shot," March 13, 1998: March Madness fans who eagerly fill out their brackets each March know the matchups featuring a 13 seed are always unpredictable (see above), and that certainly held true in 1998. Down two points with just 2.5 seconds left, Valparaiso shocked the world and sent the University of Mississippi home when guard Bryce Drew, the son of head coach Homer Drew, sank a 23-foot three-pointer as time expired.

• A 16 finally beats a 1, March 16, 2018: Few likely imagined the sixteenth-seeded University of Maryland, Baltimore County defeating the tournament's top overall seed, the University of Virginia, in the opening round,



much less doing so in convincing fashion. But that's precisely what the Retrievers did, outscoring the Cavaliers by 20 points in the second half as they cruised to a 74-54 victory and made history as the first 16 seed to defeat a number one seed.

• A halfcourt heave stuns the defending champs, March 14, 1981: There's something about March Madness that compels hoopsters to save their most memorable moments for a game's final seconds, and that's precisely what happened when Arkansas's U.S. Reed stunned the defending champion Louisville Cardinals in the second round. Down a point with six seconds remaining after leading for most of the game, Arkansas was facing dim prospects for advancement. A swarming Louisville press made it unlikely Arkansas was going to get a good shot, and that played out. Reed was forced to heave a 49-footer from a stride or two behind the halfcourt line. The shot improbably went in and the Razorbacks advanced.

• The Heels' hopes are lifted, and then sank, April 4, 2016: Much like UCLA fans would not fondly recall their upset loss to Princeton in 1996, fans of the storied program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill might find it hard to characterize their 77-74 title game defeat at the hands of the Villanova Wildcats as a night to remember. But few title games have featured closing moments as dramatic as this one. After the Tar Heels' Marcus Paige double-clutched and sank a

game-tying three pointer with 4.7 seconds left, the Wildcats' Kris Jenkins answered with a buzzer-beating three-pointer of his own, securing Villanova's first national championship since 1985.

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENTS

• A scoreboard is lit up in the inaugural tournament, 1982: More than 40 years ago, few college hoops fans might have realized just how much history they were seeing as they watched the first Division I women's championship tournament unfold. Though the inaugural status made the tournament memorable in its own right, Drake's Lorri Bauman added to the history by scoring 50 points in the West Regional final. Though Bauman's efforts were not enough to overcome Maryland, her prodigious offensive output remains a tournament record.

• Cheryl Miller cements her legacy, 1984: Few might object if a basketball fan declared the Miller Family American basketball royalty. Though Reggie Miller, a 2012 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, may be more of a household name, his older sister, Cheryl, a fellow Naismith Hall of Fame member, earned glory on the hardwoods long before her younger brother. Miller led the way as USC won its second consecutive national championship in 1984, winning the NCAA Tournament Most Valuable Player award for the second year in a row.

• A summit is reached for the

first time, 1987: The late Pat Summitt is a legendary figure in the game of basketball. Summitt won eight NCAA Tournament championships as head coach at the University of Tennessee before retiring in 2012, and her first came in 1987. Though Summitt's Lady Vols would establish the program as one of the most dominant men's or women's college basketball programs throughout her run in Knoxville, the legend had not yet been written in 1987, when Tennessee finally got the better of a Louisiana Tech team that, prior to the 1987 national title game, had won 11 of the previous 12 meetings between the schools. Summitt's squad left no doubt among fans, as the team cruised to a 67-44 victory and, in a scenario that would unfold many more times over the ensuing decades, celebrated as national champions.

• A thrilling title game and a legendary performance crowns a new champion, 1993: A generation of basketball fans may never forget the name Sheryl Swoopes, and the Texas Tech star's performance in the memorable 1993 national championship game undoubtedly has much to do with her enduring reputation. On the back of Swoopes' title game record 47 points, the Red Raiders earned the school's first national championship, defeating Ohio State 84-82 in a game many consider among the most memorable in the history of the sport.

• Brittney Griner denies entry, 2010: Blocked shots rarely garner much glory, but when they come as often as they did in one second-round affair in 2010, they make for one of the more memorable individual performances in tournament history. Legendary Baylor star Brittney Griner found herself in foul trouble in the first half of her team's second round game against Georgetown. A noted shot blocker, the 6-foot-9 Griner blocked just one shot in that foul-plagued first half. But she more than made up for that in the second half, blocking 13 shots after halftime to shatter the previous record for blocks in a single game as the Bears held the Hoyas to just 17 percent shooting on the night.

-metrocreativeconnection

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY PARK BOARD February 6, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following Park Board members also present: Aaron Mork, Harley Eidsness, Cameron Swenson and Steve Forde.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Swenson to approve the minutes of the January 2 and 16 meetings as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additions to the Agenda -- Art camp.

Moved by Park Board member Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Mork to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There were no public comments. Deb Hensrud, director of the Nelson County Fine Arts Camp, joined the meeting to give an update on the upcoming Nelson County Fine Arts Camp which will take place at Stump Lake Campground from July 29 through August 3.

Angela Herda, emergency manager, joined the meeting to give an update on the Stump Lake Campground storm shelter. County share on the project after the grant which can be paid or attributed to in-kind work is \$6,673.03.

Motion by Park Board member Forde and seconded by Park Board member Swenson to sign the storm shelter agreement. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Septic pumping bids were opened and two bids were received. The first bid opened was from Stumper Pumper which was \$200 per hole and the second bid from Boote Septic was \$250 per cleaning and \$300 for the fish cleaning station and vault toilets.

Motion by Park Board member Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Mork to accept both bids for septic pumping. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

The park contract for the campground manager was discussed.

Motion by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board Member Swenson to accept the campground manager contract and send it to Donna Rickford for signing. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

The rental agreement for the Stump Lake Bar & Café was discussed.

Motion by Park Board member Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Eidsness to accept the rental agreement for the Stump Lake Bar & Café and send it to Jesse Schuh for signing. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Seasonal camper agreements for Stump Lake Campground were discussed.

Motion by Park Board member Forde and seconded by Park Board member Mork to approve and send out the seasonal camper agreements. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Park Board member Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Mork to pay the bills as presented: Lakota American -- \$600.00; ND Telephone Co. -- \$175.00; Tri-County Water -- \$88.00. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Park Board member

Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Forde to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks
Secretary

Cody Johnson
Chairman

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION February 6, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson. Roll call was taken and the following members were also present: Commissioners Aaron Mork, Cameron Swenson and Steve Forde.

The board and visitors present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Commissioner Forde and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the minutes from the January 16 meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additions to the agenda: Financial statements, County Road 19 culvert. Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None.

Curt Loe, highway superintendent, joined the meeting to discuss road and bridge business. Curt requested permission to fill the vacant full-time highway department position that was not filled last year. Discussion was had on the makeup of the highway department positions and it was noted that there was already a position in the budget that could be filled.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to advertise for the vacant position at the highway department. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Discussion was also had on purchasing a new semi to replace the two that sold at auction.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to allow a budget up to \$55,000 to purchase a replacement semi for the ones sold at auction. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Discussion was had on the culvert going through County Road 19 being replaced and lowering it to grade. David Steffan and Scott Nelson joined the meeting for the discussion.

Directive was given to Curt Loe to get sizes and specifications from the Nelson County Water Board for the culvert. Discussion was tabled until after that information was provided.

Paul Bjornson, KLJ, joined the meeting to give a preliminary opinion of cost of milling and graveling County Road 19. Estimation was \$1,287,369.24 for the 5.19 miles.

Moved by Commissioner Forde and seconded by Commissioner Mork to appoint the highway superintendent as the responsible charge for all federal aid highway projects. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to approve signing the miscellaneous services agreement with KLJ. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Forde and seconded by Commissioner Mork to accept the recommendation of KLJ to perform the design work on project BRJ-0032(019) PCN 23985. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Michelle Linstad, tax director, joined the meeting to present

abatements.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Forde to approve the abatements and corrections for parcels 02-0002-11624-000, 02-0002-11626-000, 02-0002-11630-000, 15-0001-22969-000, 15-0001-23443-000, 15-0001-23723-000, 19-0000-05653-000, 25-0000-07323-000, 15-0001-23496-000, 15-0001-23499-100 and 32-0001-79096-000. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Kurt Schwind, sheriff, and Jesse Madche, chief deputy, joined the meeting for discussion on sheriff business. Presented by Sheriff Schwind was the 2023 year report, the current monthly update, an estimate of \$11,678.85 for the K-9 vehicle upfit into the 2020 Explorer, quotes on an auto start on the sheriff's F-150 and a quote from Axon of 14,687.92 over the course of five years for the dash cam system in the new sheriff's vehicle purchased.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to approve the quote for the K-9 upfit with the recommendation that it be upfitted to the newer 2022 Explorer in order to maximize the labor cost. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Forde to purchase an auto start for the sheriff's F-150 from Sound Decision for the amount of \$449. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Discussion on the Axon camera system was tabled for more information.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to reappoint Steve Forde to the Nelson County Public Health Board. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented a new precinct map for Nelson County that was provided by the North Dakota Secretary of State's Office that included parts of the Spirit Lake Reservation within the borders of Nelson County. Those parts of the Spirit Lake Reservation fall under Legislative District 9 and require a second precinct for Nelson County.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Forde to approve the two precincts for Nelson County with the boundaries as provided by the secretary of state. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Discussion on the Axon camera system was resumed with further information from Chief Deputy Madche and Sheriff Schwind.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Forde to approve the quote paid over five years for the Axon camera system for the new sheriff's patrol vehicle. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Discussion was had on the additional charges on the invoice for the new sheriff's vehicle. Directive was given to request to have those extra charges removed.

Portfolio Updates:

Commissioner Mork gave an update on the highway department work. Discussion was also had on disciplinary policy for highway employees.

Commissioner Swenson gave an update on the shop construction at Stump Lake Park.

Commissioner Forde gave an update on the construction in the basement with Human Services.

Commissioner Johnson explained we are still waiting on the joint powers agreement with the Law Enforcement Center.

Financial statements from the end of January were presented and discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Forde and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the financial statements for January. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Forde to approve the bills as presented. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Jayne Tenneson, state's attorney, joined the meeting to give an update on state's attorney business.

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Forde to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks
Nelson County Auditor
Cody Johnson
Chairman

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION February 12, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson. Roll call was taken and the following members were also present: Commissioner Mike Haugland. Also available via Microsoft Teams were Aaron Mork and Cameron Swenson.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Mork to approve the agenda as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented quotes from NRG in regards to a server upgrade and increased memory and backup to facilitate the new tax software that will be implemented this year. Cost for hardware and labor would be \$7,059.63 and the monthly backup cost would increase \$505.71 from \$650 to \$1,155.71.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve and accept the quotes from NRG to upgrade the server and backups. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Mork to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks
Nelson County Auditor
Cody Johnson
Chairman

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION February 20, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson. Roll call was taken and the following members were also present: Commissioners Aaron Mork, Mike Haugland, Cameron Swenson and Steve Forde.

The board and visitors present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Forde to approve the minutes from the February 6 and 12 meetings. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additions to the agenda -- Website, LEC joint powers, and Planning and Zoning appointment.

Moved by Commissioner Forde

and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None.

The clerk of court agreement was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Forde and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to enter into a funding agreement for the 2025-27 biennium to receive reimbursement for providing clerk services. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

An interest letter for the vacant planning and zoning board member from Ivan Berg was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to appoint Ivan Berg to the vacant board member spot on the Planning and Zoning Committee. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Curt Loe, highway superintendent, joined the meeting to discuss road and bridge business.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to advertise for culvert and gravel bids to be opened at the regular meeting of the county commission on April 2. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Michelle Linstad, tax director, joined the meeting to discuss tax director business and abatements.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Forde to approve abatements for parcels 06-0000-01384-302, 15-0001-23453-000, 15-0009-24754-000, 18-0001-35302-000 and 27-0001-67841-000. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Also discussed was the Nelson County website agreement. The current agreement for the county website has expired and a new agreement needs to be sought. Discussion was tabled for more information.

The Law Enforcement Center joint powers agreement was discussed. Discussion was tabled until the finalized draft was available.

Portfolio Updates --

Commissioner Swenson gave an update on the Stump Lake Park shop construction. Also discussed was the progress of the bar and café.

Commissioner Mork gave an update on the highway department work.

Commissioner Haugland gave an update on the JDA and discussion on housing development.

Commissioner Forde gave an update on his trip to Washington, DC for the National Association of Counties and recommended other commissioners look into involvement in county policies at a national level.

Commissioner Johnson gave an update on the weed board and spraying.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the bills as presented. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

ND Public Employees Retirement System .. \$107,373.20

Internal Revenue Service

Marco Technologies, LLC

Farmers & Merchants Bank

MLGC

Quill

Balco Uniforms

Blue360 Media, LLC

Cenex Fleet Fueling

Copy Cat Printing 390.00
Creative Planning 158.35
Dacotah Paper Co. 1,310.01
Farmers Union Oil Co.

DL 16,700.85
Gerrells 28.62
Gjovik Repair 213.77
Guardian Fleet Safety 65,001.79
Haugland Trucking 9,399.39
Kurita America, Inc. 1,165.67
Lakota Municipal

Utilities 976.61
Kevin McPherson 36.00
Mid-State Organized

Crime Center 100.00
Miller Repair 3,636.05
ND Assn. of Counties 485.10
NDACo Resources

Group 39,074.42
ODP Business

Solutions 801.91
Pomp's Tire Service 3,872.26
Premium Waters, Inc. 163.47
Safe Life Defense 642.60
Sports Awards 147.46
Jayme Tenneson 298.43
Acme Tools 710.61

Arctic Spray Foam

& Insulation 46,790.00
City of Michigan 75.65
Farmers Union Oil Co.

Tolna 37.98
Hope Auto Glass 1,215.00
Menards 367.20
Northern Truck Equip.

Corp. 533.96
Productivity Plus

Account 204.00
Razor Tracking 175.00
Stone's Mobile Radio 1,726.60
Strucrual Materials,

Inc. 2,294.64
Brager Disposal 961.50
City of McVillie 87.96
LR Law Enforcement

Center 19,140.51
Justin Luehring 56.69
Minn-Kota Comm. 68.53
ND Telephone Co. 166.09
Office of Attorney

General-1250 385.00
Otter Tail Power Co. 2,134.86
PharmChem 95.85
Polar Communications .. 1,364.85
Verizon Wireless 610.22
Cap First Equipment

Finance 480,000.00
Lakota American 845.75
Hamster Oil, LLC 100.14
Information Technology

Dept. 1,052.90
Lakota Hardware 171.94
LeeAnn Loe 45.00
Nodak Electric Co-op. ... 511.00
Sound Decision 499.98
The Duke's 71.00
Tyler Technologies 2,880.00
KLJ Engineering, LLC ... 3,595.00
Jeff Rittman 3,725.68
Total \$874,854.48
County General

Net Salary \$59,998.87
Road & Bridge

Net Salary 43,659.49
Human Services Net

Salary & Expenses 77,780.00
Weed Control Net

Salary & Expenses 1,728.74
Total \$183,167.10
Grand Total \$1,058,021.58

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks
Nelson County Auditor

Cody Johnson
Chairman

Nelson County Commissioners