

THE PEP

GAZETTE

AUGUST 2022

FOREWARD

This special themed edition of the Gazette is dedicated to the first year students beginning in September. Welcome to the Mount! The PEP society aims to be safe space for creativity, sharing ideas, and making new friends. If you are interested in politics, economics, or philosophy, email msvupeps@gmail.com for more information about the society. You can also follow our social medias to keep up with our events.

Natalie Locke, Vice President of the MSVU PEPS

IT'S NOTHING NEW: THE ABUSE OF FEMALE POLITICIANS

Natalie Locke

On the 26th of August, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland was harassed by a man in Alberta (Paas-Lang, 2022). He used profane language (Paas-Lang, 2022) while Freeland was walking toward an elevator. Nothing about the event is surprising. Politicians are accustomed to hate, harm, and threats. Female politicians are especially familiar with being a target. While male politicians are unjustly intimidated or physically harmed due to their conduct or position, female politicians are unjustly treated in addition to their sex.

Women in politics face sex-based obstacles before, during, and after office.

What separates Freeland's verbal attack in August from abuse towards other female politicians is the evidence that was shared online. Female politicians from other parties shared support for Freeland and condemned the man's actions. Men did the same. The mistreatment of female politicians goes unspoken every day. When women in politics question the status quo is questioned. Following the event in Alberta, the notion to change or increase security for politicians is being assessed.

Women in politics should share the "little things." Do not let inappropriate comments slide because rectifying it would be disruptive, for instance. Everyday injustices need to be addressed if we want a healthy and safe environment for future female politicians.

So, the harassment of female politicians is nothing new. It is more unusual to condemn the behaviour on a large scale.

Paas-Lang, C. (2022, August 29). *Chrystia Freeland latest target of public threats, intimidation against women in Canadian politics* / *CBC News*. CBCnews. Retrieved August 29, 2022, from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/harassment-women-public-life-journalists-politicians-1.6564376>.



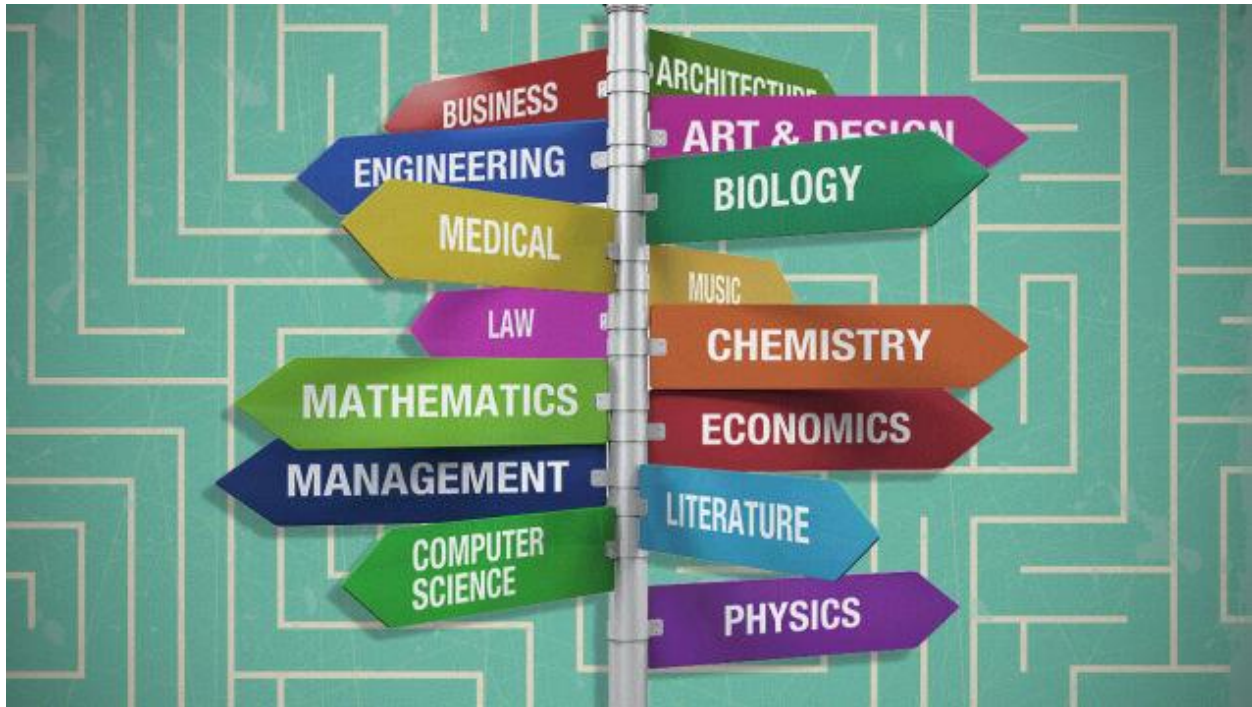
BEST PLACES TO STUDY ON CAMPUS

Natalie Locke

The **library's cubicles** are a perfect space to work at a desk with a nice view of the harbour. There are outlets and a hidden fireplace, located behind the furthest bookshelf from the right.

Evaristus has small rooms, in the middle of the upper floors. There are high tables, sofas, and a microwave nearby.

There are **cubicles on the third floor of Seton**. The hallways can be busy during class changes but other than that, it's quiet.



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PICKING YOUR MAJOR

Scott Ripley

One of the questions you'll get asked the most when you mention attending university is, "what are you studying?". Of course, what they're really getting at is, "what did you pick as your major?" because they don't really want to know all the specific and wide-ranging courses you're enrolled in, but rather they want to know what the general focus of your degree is. It can be a daunting question if, like me, you've been unsure about your answer. Maybe you're thinking about applying in the future, maybe you're enrolled but don't know if you made the right choice, or maybe you've been in for a few semesters and just aren't feeling the path you're on. Whatever your situation, this article will outline some important things to keep in mind when considering what to do about your major.

This advice comes from many years of indecision, several mistakes, and a strong desire to help polymathic-minded people find their way a little easier.

Do your research

You're going to have a lot of options when applying for university and one of the best ways to help narrow your choices is very easy: see what programs are available at which schools. If you have a specific and not-so-common interest, then you'll know which schools to focus on but if

you have a broad set of interests you might want to consider applying to larger schools with the widest variety of programs. Obviously, there are many things to consider when picking your school but making sure your program opportunities suit you will help you in the long-run.

Sample, sample, sample

In most programs a majority of the courses you're going to take are going to be electives, courses that don't count to your major and can be in any subject. Here at the Mount, we're required to take two courses out of three lists of subjects: humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Perhaps you took an interest in history in high school but aren't sure if it's something you'd like to do at the university level, these courses give you a great opportunity to see what subjects genuinely interest you enough to take higher-level classes in.

Your choices are not set in stone

Picking a major feels like the kind of decision that cannot be undone but that's just not true. While it is possible and more-or-less easy to change your major after you've declared, there are a few things to keep in mind if you're looking to change it. Not all the courses you've taken are going to fit in the requirements for a new major, so if you're changing paths late in the game you might have to delay graduation by a few semesters in order to fill your required courses. If you're early in your university career and decide after a semester or two that you want to take a different program than you're a lot less likely to need to take extra time.

Consider the future

There are two main things your major is going to have an effect on: careers and grad school. Now, if you're having trouble deciding on a major then it's likely you're also not 100% set on a path after your undergrad but thinking about your major in the context of your future endeavors can help you to narrow your choices. Maybe several of the jobs you're interested in require Master's degrees so you know that you want to focus on subjects that your school has Honours programs for. Perhaps like me, you find the prospect of jobs that a history degree can get you to be unfulfilling so you can scratch a subject off the list. Obviously, you don't always know what you're going to want to be doing in 5 years but keeping that timeframe in the back of your mind will help you to keep opportunities open and maybe save you some time and effort in the future.

Your major does not define you

It can be easy to get caught up in stereotypes and memes about different majors and what they say about the people that take them. Whether it's wanting to be seen as the deep thinking philosophy major or the genius physicist, this way of envisioning yourself is super not healthy. The focus of your studies does not say as much about who you are than how you approach the challenges of your degree does. Don't get caught up in the mentality that degrees in art or gender are not worthwhile degrees or that humanities don't give you marketable skills. You're going to get out of your degree whatever you put into it, regardless of the subject. You're not cornering

yourself into a specific career with your choice either. You don't have to have to go into business because you got a business degree, you don't have to work in public service with a political science degree, as long as you seek out a diverse array of academic, volunteer, and professional experiences during the course of your study you're going to have a wide range of choices open to you when you graduate.

AFTERWORD

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