

Compton College

Most Popular Majors and Meta-Majors



Summary

This is a report detailing the most popular majors and meta-majors from the previous five years (2011-12 through 2015-16), according to how many program awards were received by students within a given discipline. The most popular majors according to degree awards tend to be from general education programs (e.g., Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and Biological and Physical Sciences). Although these are popular majors focusing on social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences respectively, the program award is still considered an “emphasis” within General Studies rather than a degree in that emphasized field. The other most popular degree-granting programs are all located within Career Technical Education (CTE), such as Nursing, Childhood Education, Business Administration, and Administration of Justice. The most popular non-CTE degree-granting programs are Sociology and Psychology, which are also respectively the 9th and 10th most popular degree-granting majors overall.

In terms of certificates awarded, the most popular programs are all located within CTE, as most non-CTE programs do not award certificates. The top 11 programs are all CTE programs, and the most popular non-CTE certificate-granting program is Transfer Studies within general education. However, there is a large difference in the number of certificates awarded by the most popular program (Childhood Education) and the 10th most popular program (Machine Tool Technology). Over the past five years, Childhood Education has awarded nearly 200 degrees, while Machine Tool Technology has awarded 12, and Transfer Studies has awarded 10. It should also be noted that some programs have seen dramatic increases in the awards offered in just the most recent year of available data. For example, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration is the second-most popular program in terms of certificates awarded, but 74 of its 134 certificates over the last five years were all awarded in 2015-16.

When considering the total number of awards granted (i.e., both degrees and certificates), there are no significant changes among which programs are the most popular. The General Studies emphases awarded hundreds of degrees over the past five years, while many programs’ combined totals are well below 100. Only a few programs (e.g., Childhood Education, Administration of Justice, and Business Management) appear to have a substantial proportion of both degrees and certificates awarded.

This summary is based on combined data from CTE and non-CTE programs, but the remainder of this report will provide data about CTE and non-CTE programs separately. For example, several CTE programs focus on awarding certificates rather than degrees, and several non-CTE programs focus on awarding degrees rather than certificates. Likewise, the number of student majors per academic year is reported in order to provide a context for the number of awards offered by a given program. Some programs may offer fewer total awards while at the same time awarding a larger proportion of students who officially listed that program as their major.

Most Popular Non-CTE Majors (by Degrees Awarded)

Major	5 Years	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Social & Behavioral Sciences (GS)	299	30	52	59	81	77
Arts & Humanities (GS)	247	44	55	42	45	61
Biological & Physical Sciences (GS)	106	9	13	26	28	30
Sociology	63	15	10	12	12	14
Psychology	46	4	4	6	10	22
General Studies	32	17	10	4	1	0
Liberal Studies	25	7	6	3	4	5
Culture & Communication (GS)	12	0	1	1	6	4
Speech Communication	11	0	0	0	4	7
Kinesiology & Wellness (GS)	10	0	2	5	1	2
Mathematics	10	0	3	1	2	4
Spanish	9	1	1	2	1	4
Physical Science	8	0	3	0	1	4
English	7	1	0	2	2	2
History	7	0	1	0	5	1
General Science	6	1	1	0	1	3
Political Science	6	0	1	1	2	2
Physics	5	0	2	0	1	2
Fine & Applied Arts (GS)	4	0	2	1	0	1
Physical Education	4	1	0	0	2	1
Pre-Engineering	4	0	2	0	0	2
Pre-Nursing	4	0	1	2	1	0
Art (Various Majors)	3	0	2	0	0	1
Communication Studies (GS)	3	0	1	2	0	0
Transfer Studies	3	2	1	0	0	0
Anthropology	2	0	0	1	0	1
Biology	2	0	1	0	1	0
Chemistry	2	0	2	0	0	0
Pre-Dentistry or Pre-Med	2	2	0	0	0	0
Dance	1	1	0	0	0	0
Economics	1	0	0	0	1	0
Ethnic Studies	1	0	0	1	0	0
French	1	0	0	1	0	0
Philosophy	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total Awards	947	135	177	172	212	251

Note: Counts include multiple degrees and/or certificates awarded to individual students. Some programs that have awarded degrees within the last five years may not currently exist. GS = General Studies.

Most Popular Non-CTE Majors (by Student Major Counts)

Major	3 Year Total	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
English	828	274	300	254
General Science	532	169	183	180
Pre-Dentistry or Pre-Medicine	532	165	169	198
Biology	494	159	164	171
Physical Education	468	137	130	201
Psychology	406	122	73	211
Mathematics	236	84	80	72
Art (Various Majors)	236	72	68	96
Sociology	207	36	24	147
Pre-Engineering	131	32	52	47
Spanish	123	49	36	38
History	118	35	40	43
Chemistry	107	31	41	35
Political Science	97	33	20	44
Physical Science	80	26	33	21
Philosophy	79	27	34	18
Anthropology	76	22	26	28
Speech Communication	73	10	4	59
Dance	60	24	22	14
Ethnic Studies	51	15	20	16
Economics	43	12	16	15
Physics	27	7	5	15
French	3	1	2	0
General Studies	1,787	494	684	609
Liberal Studies	1,179	853*	152	174
Total Majors	7,973	2,889	2,378	2,706

Note: Majors are counted according to application and/or education plan records provided by students and may not entirely reflect actual Compton College programs. General Studies emphases cannot be selected as a major and are therefore not reported as such. Students may be duplicated across academic years.

*Liberal Studies awards were coded incorrectly in AY 2014-15, resulting in many other programs (e.g., General Studies, Childhood Education) being listed as Liberal Studies instead.

Most Popular CTE Majors (by Degrees Awarded)

Major	5 Years	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Nursing	204	45	45	33	36	45
Childhood Education	85	19	14	19	17	16
Business Administration	77	0	17	11	20	29
Administration of Justice	73	7	16	9	18	23
Business Management	26	12	3	6	5	0
Welding	7	2	1	1	1	2
Accounting	6	0	1	1	0	4
Computer Information Systems	6	1	1	0	2	2
Fire & Emergency Technology	6	0	3	0	1	2
Machine Tool Technology	6	1	1	1	1	2
Real Estate	5	2	1	2	0	0
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	4	1	1	0	1	1
Automotive Technology	4	1	0	1	2	0
Sign Language Interp. Training	4	0	1	1	2	0
Film/Video	3	1	0	1	1	0
Marketing	3	2	0	1	0	0
Paralegal Studies	2	0	0	0	1	1
Respiratory Care	2	0	0	0	1	1
Architecture	1	0	0	0	0	1
Auto Collision Repair/Painting	1	0	0	1	0	0
Construction Technology	1	0	0	1	0	0
Cosmetology	1	0	0	0	0	1
Office Administration	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total Awards	528	95	105	89	109	130

Note: Counts include multiple degrees and/or certificates awarded to individual students. Some programs that have awarded degrees within the last five years may not currently exist.

Most Popular CTE Majors (by Certificates Awarded)

Major	5 Years	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Childhood Education	199	41	40	40	36	42
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	134	1	10	12	37	74
Automotive Technology	66	7	14	10	8	27
Cosmetology	35	31	3	0	1	0
Auto Collision Repair/Painting	21	1	2	5	0	13
Administration of Justice	20	5	7	1	4	3
Music (Commercial Music)	17	0	4	5	4	4
Welding	16	5	5	1	2	3
Machine Tool Technology	12	1	0	7	1	3
Business Management	11	4	0	5	2	0
Accounting	9	0	3	1	1	4
Office Administration	8	1	0	2	2	3
Real Estate	4	2	1	1	0	0
Sign Language Interp. Training	4	0	1	0	2	1
Marketing	4	2	0	2	0	0
Fire & Emergency Technology	2	1	0	1	0	0
Paralegal Studies	2	0	0	1	1	0
Respiratory Care	2	0	0	0	1	1
Architecture	2	0	1	0	0	1
Cabinet/Fine Woodworking	1	0	0	1	0	0
Total Awards	569	102	91	95	102	179

Note: Counts include multiple degrees and/or certificates awarded to individual students. Some programs that have awarded certificates within the last five years may not currently exist.

Most Popular CTE Majors (by Student Major Counts)

Major	3 Year Total	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Nursing	4,231	1,397	1,400	1,434
Childhood Education	1,911	635	639	637
Business Administration	1,386	487	491	408
Administration of Justice	1,295	431	450	414
Business Management	858	323	289	246
Automotive Technology	393	124	139	130
Music	372	139	110	123
Accounting	352	114	123	115
Welding	331	129	112	90
Fire & Emergency Technology	327	132	105	90
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	254	88	84	82
Computer Information Systems	239	96	77	66
Art (Various Majors)	236	72	68	96
Cosmetology	211	51	54	106
Auto Collision Repair/Painting	205	77	65	63
Sign Language/Interp. Training	173	57	61	55
Film/Video	154	52	51	51
Office Administration	152	51	57	44
Machine Tool Technology	146	63	52	31
Paralegal Studies	139	43	52	44
Real Estate	139	47	48	44
Architecture	122	47	40	35
Respiratory Care	104	42	40	22
Construction Technology	61	18	32	11
Marketing	60	17	22	21
Total Majors	13,851	4,732	4,661	4,458

Note: Majors are counted according to application and/or education plan records provided by students and may not entirely reflect actual Compton College programs. Students may be duplicated across academic years.

Academic Schools for Potential Meta-Majors

General Education

General Studies
Transfer Studies
Arts & Humanities
Biological & Physical Sciences
Communication Studies
Culture & Communication
Fine & Applied Arts
Kinesiology & Wellness
Social & Behavioral Sciences

Language

English
French
Japanese
Sign Language/Interp.
Spanish

Humanities

Anthropology
Childhood Education/Dev.
Ethnic Studies
History
Liberal Studies
Philosophy

Business

Accounting
Business Administration
Business Management
Computer Information Systems
Marketing
Office Administration
Real Estate

Law

Administration of Justice
Paralegal Studies

Math/Engineering

Mathematics
Pre-Engineering

Industrial/Technological

Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
Architecture
Auto Collision Repair/Painting
Automotive Technology
Construction Technology
Cosmetology
Fire & Emergency Technology
Machine Tool Technology
Welding

Fine Arts

Art (Various Majors)
Dance
Film/Video
Music
Speech Comm.

Natural Sciences

Biology
Chemistry
General Science
Physical Science
Physics

Social Sciences

Economics
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology

Healthcare

Nursing
Physical Education
Pre-Dentistry
Pre-Medicine
Respiratory Care

Note: The above listing is entirely theoretical and may reflect the concept “schools” more than any official meta-major for Compton College. Meta-majors typically involve an entire program of courses that happen to overlap or cross between similar disciplines, ideally allowing students to take courses that will count towards their degree or certificate before they have decided on a specific course of study to pursue. Although some of these disciplines may be related, it is difficult to propose meta-majors without first examining the potential overlap in curriculum for these disciplines. For example, there may be more overlap in the coursework among Social Sciences than the coursework across different Foreign Languages or Fine Arts.

Most Popular Meta-Majors (by Degrees Awarded)

Meta-Major	5 Years	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
General Studies	716	102	137	140	162	175
Healthcare	216	48	46	35	40	47
Business	124	18	23	21	27	35
Humanities	121	26	21	24	26	24
Social Sciences	116	19	15	19	25	38
Law	75	7	16	9	19	24
Industry/Technology	31	5	6	5	6	9
Natural Sciences	23	1	9	0	4	9
Language	21	2	2	6	5	6
Fine Arts	18	2	2	1	5	8
Math/Engineering	14	0	5	1	2	6
Total Awards	1,475	230	282	261	321	381

Most Popular Meta-Majors (by Certificates Awarded)

Meta-Major	5 Years	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Industry/Technology	289	47	35	37	49	121
Humanities	199	41	40	40	36	42
Business	36	9	4	11	5	7
Fine Arts	22	0	6	6	4	6
Law	22	5	7	2	5	3
General Studies	10	0	5	2	2	1
Language	4	0	1	0	2	1
Healthcare	2	0	0	0	1	1
Total Awards	584	102	98	98	104	182

Note: Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Math/Engineering all awarded zero certificates over the past 5 years.

Most Popular Meta-Majors (by Student Major Counts)

Meta-Major	3 Year Total	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Healthcare	5,335	1,741	1,739	1,855
Humanities	3,414*	1,587*	911	916
Business	3,186	1,135	1,107	944
Industry/Technology	2,050	729	683	638
General Studies	1,787	494	684	609
Law	1,434	474	502	458
Natural Sciences	1,240	392	426	422
Language	1,129	381	399	349
Fine Arts	1,035	369	323	343
Social Sciences	753	203	133	417
Math/Engineering	367	116	132	119
Total Majors	14,660	7,621	7,039	7,070

*Several programs were incorrectly coded as "Liberal Studies" in AY 2014-15.