

## Riddle Me This

Let's start with a riddle:

What's something that most college students have, is used in musical scales, is time consuming, and is also what people who are under the age of 18 are called?

### MINORS.

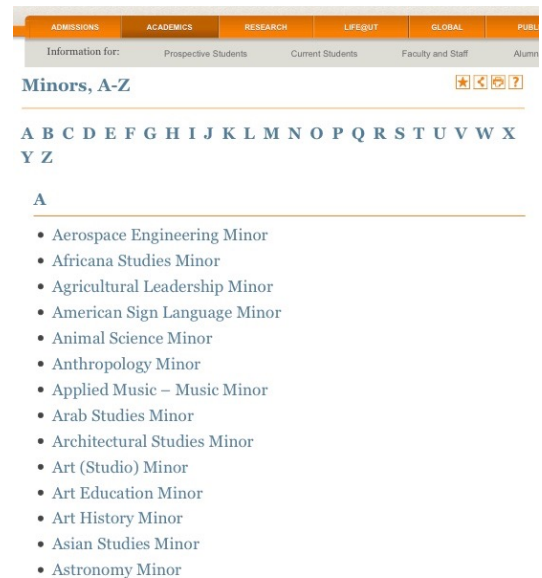
Sorry for the poorly executed riddle, but I tried my best with what I had—I really did. Anyway, what's all the hype around minors? (Academic minors that is). Are you behind if you don't have one yet? Do you really need one? Will it really help you to get a job?

Sadly, I don't have all of those answers. However, I do know they're wildly popular among Communication Studies Students. Nearly all of my

friends who are majoring in CMST also have a minor. A few examples of the minors some of my friends are pursuing:

Tourism and Hospitality Management, Retail Consumer Science, Business, Plant Sciences, Religious Studies, French—the possibilities are endless. Adding a minor to your undergraduate repertoire is a great way to A. take additional classes that you find interesting and are more tailored to your niche interests, and

B. make yourself more marketable and well rounded. Does that mean that your minor will make you a shoe in for your post-grad dream job? Unfortunately, no. I was once told by Dr. Haas, “I've never heard of anyone getting the job because of their minor,” BUT it definitely can help you gain more insight, hands on experience, and knowledge into that specific career path or interest you have that will definitely prove useful when it comes time to start interviewing.



The screenshot shows a university website with a navigation menu at the top containing: ADMISSIONS, ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, LIFE/OUT, GLOBAL, and PUBL. Below the menu is a sub-menu for 'Information for:' with options for Prospective Students, Current Students, Faculty and Staff, and Alumni. The main content area is titled 'Minors, A-Z' and features a list of letters from A to Z. The letter 'A' is selected, and a list of minors is displayed below it:

- Aerospace Engineering Minor
- Africana Studies Minor
- Agricultural Leadership Minor
- American Sign Language Minor
- Animal Science Minor
- Anthropology Minor
- Applied Music – Music Minor
- Arab Studies Minor
- Architectural Studies Minor
- Art (Studio) Minor
- Art Education Minor
- Art History Minor
- Asian Studies Minor
- Astronomy Minor

One of my favorite things about CMST as a major is the flexibility it offers students, so that we are able to delve deeper into other subject material that we find interesting, and we're able to incorporate what we're learning in those classes into our Communication courses and vice versa. Unlike a lot of other majors offered at UT, CMST is very flexible when it comes to required courses and fortunately isn't jam-packed with gen-ed requirements. This leaves ample room in students' schedules to fit in their minor courses or other courses they're interested in.

I definitely recommend checking out all of the different minor options and checking with your advisor about how you can make a minor work if you don't yet have one. Not only does taking on a minor expose you to new and interesting courses outside of CMST classes, but it also



exposes you to different people who share similar specialized interests with you! A win-win.

It's not too late to declare a minor (unless you're a senior who is planning on graduating on time—that one may not be in the cards). Each department has different requirements for their minor hours, how to declare it, etc. so, make sure to reach out to that department specifically if you're wanting to get started this coming spring semester! If you've been thinking about it—do it! Move some classes around, take a class that YOU want to take, and make the best out of YOUR education!