

CAREER AFTER CLASS 12TH

What to do after 12th?

If you are a Class 12 student, along with preparing for the Board Exams, you will also have to deal with one interesting but really nagging question, i.e., **'What to do after Class 12?'** While many Class 12 students might have already decided what they want to do after Class 12, there are many other students who are still confused and undecided about the future they want to build.

Irrespective of which category you fall under, the decision about what to do after Class 12, is a critical one. With a plethora of courses, streams, entrance exams and career paths to choose from, it is natural for students to get confused about what lies ahead? But although, the career decision post Class 12 is very important, it is not as intimidating as some of the students think. Let us explore **career options available to Class 12 students after their Board exams.**

Why is it an important decision?

Picking the right course and college is a very important decision for a Class 12 student because the right choice will lead to a rewarding career. On the other hand, choosing the wrong option will mean that you end up precious time in studying a subject or a domain that doesn't really interest you. Moreover, in the majority of the cases, the decision that you take after Class 12 will be the one that you will have to live with for the rest of your life. There is little scope for changing your career after joining a graduation course and even if you do it, you will still end up wasting the most important and productive years of your life.

Why is it a difficult decision?

Along with being a very important decision, it is also a difficult decision to take, especially in today's context. Today, students are faced with numerous options and several courses all of which look almost equally lucrative and interesting. This wide range of courses available today have further complicated the decision making process for the students. Gone are the days when a career as an engineer, doctor, chartered accountant and in other such core fields was the only good career opportunity. Students today have far more options available to them as compared to the ones a few years back. They are far more open to experimenting with new fields and are building careers as *tea tasters, graphic designers, professional photographers, ethical hackers and many other such fields* that were completely unheard of a few years back.

Choice – A Blessing or a Curse

The introduction of these new fields has been both a blessing and a curse for the Class 12 students. For someone wanting to build a career in an off-beat field this is a great time to follow their passion. But, in the lure of following their passion, students often end up picking a course or stream that they are not really ready for. Similarly, many students pick certain courses because they perceive them to be easier as compared to other mainstream choices. Often we come across people who are unhappy with their work life and wish they could switch to some other field. But switching fields once you start working is not easy. Thus, students need to be *very sure* about the course they choose. It's important to ensure that whatever course you pick is in sync with your personal career interests.

How to choose the right Graduation Course?

Deciding the right course for graduation seems like an impossible decision to take. To take the first step toward choosing the right course after 12th you must first know what options are available to you and which ones are best suited to your interests. Some of the major points that students should factor in while deciding upon the best course for them are as follows –

1. Your Interests

The first thing that you must consider while deciding the graduation course is your interest and passion about it. Having mental clarity about, what you want to do in future and how interested are in a particular field, will go a long way in helping you decide your graduation course. For instance, if you are interested in archeology but have interest in chemistry, then Art restoration or Museology might be a good career option for you.

2. Understanding of the course

Before you decide which course to pursue, it is also important to understand what a course entail and what all does it cover? Simply put, you must thoroughly understand what lies in the store for you once you join the course. This means understanding what subjects will be covered, what will you learn, what kind of teaching pedagogy is followed in a particular graduation course.

There are many ways to gather important information about the graduation course you are planning to take up. The most convenient and obvious would be to talk to your seniors, siblings or parents. People who are working the fields that are similar to your interest will be able to guide you the best. Alternatively, you can also find relevant information on the internet or consult a career counselor.

3. Future Prospects

Another major factor to consider upon deciding a college course is its future prospects. Especially, if you are considering going for some new or off-beat courses, it is essential to understand the job and further study prospects that it holds. Going for a course that matches your interests is great but you should also be mindful of the future prospects that it offers. One of the major questions that you should try to answer is, 'What are the career opportunities available after the course?' Also, look for, what prospects are available for higher studies in the field.

Popular College Courses Available after 12th

After Class 12, Indian students often face only two career choices i.e. Engineering or Medical. But gradually this perception is changing with new and innovative course options emerging. To add to this, today, students have also become more open towards new and off-beat courses and options that are presented to them today.

1. Engineering

Engineering is one of the most sought after course after 12th. Being a professional course, it attracts almost every candidate who has taken science stream with PCM subjects. Because of its high popularity, it is also a highly competitive course option which requires one to appear for different entrance exams to seek admission to top engineering colleges in India. The most popular among them is the **Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)**, which is a common engineering entrance exam, for engineering aspirants across the country. Last year alone, around 11 lakh students appeared for the JEE Mains exam which is quite a clear indication of how popular engineering courses are among students. There is a wide range of engineering courses available to the science students. Mechanical, electrical, computer science, civil and biotechnology is some of the most preferred engineering streams. Some relatively new fields like that of nanotechnology, textile, petrochemical, marine engineering etc. are also gaining popularity and offer some exciting career choices upon graduation. Most engineering courses require for students to have a strong background in mathematics and science.

2. Medical Sciences

After engineering, the second most preferred option for students from science stream is Medical or Medicine. Medicine is the study of life and everything that surrounds it. To put simply, if your dream is to be a doctor, medicine is the stream for you. But in addition to this, you can also take up pharmacy, agricultural sciences and zoology studies also as part of your medical science studies post class 12. For example, the course of Bachelors in Pharmacy is a very popular course among medical students. It teaches them how drugs are made, how they work and also about drug immunity and the various effects different compounds have on a patient. Students who opt for PCB or Physics, Chemistry and Biology in Class 12 can opt for courses associated with medical sciences including MBBS. Apart from the main stream career options, medical research in various fields such as that genetics, microbiology, etc. also offer great career opportunities to medical students. Biotechnology is a relatively new course in this field but, is fast gaining popularity and offers great careers opportunities to the students after graduation. Besides these, courses like physiotherapy, nutrition and dietetics etc. are also popular choices among students these days.

3. Commerce

For students who pursued commerce stream in class 11th and 12th Chartered Accountancy is one of the most popular course choices after 12th. The course helps you learn the nitty-gritties of the financial affairs of companies in accordance with the government laws and also covers topics on taxation, financial transactions through auditing along with the practical training for creating audit reports, etc. Apart from Chartered Accountancy, some other popular course options available to commerce students are Bachelors in Business Management (BBA), B.Com, B.Com (H), Economics (H), CS, Law, Bachelors in Travel and Tourism etc. These courses can help you build a great career as an investment banker, brand manager, human resource manager and other such reputable positions. Students who pursued commerce without mathematics in class 12th might not be eligible for some course available to commerce students after 12th.

4. Arts

A background in Arts or humanities offers a wide range of course for students to choose from. Contrary to the earlier trends, more and more students are opting for Arts course after 12th in recent years. Mass Communication, journalism, advertising, interior designing, graphics designing, psychology, sociology, history, fashion designing, photography, Theater etc.; there are a plethora of courses for an Arts student to choose from. As an Arts student, you can also pursue courses in linguistic, religious studies, art restoration, foreign languages, filmmaking, art history and other such related fields.

Entrance Exams

One of the major concerns for students after 12th is to appear for entrance exams. Almost every stream be it arts, engineering, medical, commerce or any other, has its own set of entrance exams for admission to reputed colleges in the respective domains. Every year lakhs of students prepare diligently to crack the entrance exams related to the courses they are interested in taking at the graduation level. Depending upon the score the students get in these exams, they can apply to a plethora of courses offered by colleges across the country. Because of the increasing number of applicants and fierce competition for admissions, many reputed colleges have adopted entrance exams as a means to screen and shortlist the best candidates suited to their course and college. There are some common entrance exams also, which help students apply to multiple colleges with a single entrance exam. Some popular entrance exam in each study stream are below.

Engineering

JEE Mains is the most important and popular engineering exam in the country. Majority of the engineering colleges enroll students based on the rank received by engineering aspirants in this exam. The JEE Main exam score and rank is used by nearly all the reputed engineering college in India to screen and shortlist candidates for admission. Admission to IITs - the premier tech schools of India are also facilitated by JEE Mains as the first level screening. The top 2.25 lakh engineering aspirants from JEE Main are selected to appear for JEE Advanced exam. The JEE advanced score is used by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT's) for enrollment in the various undergraduate engineering courses offered by them. Some other popular engineering entrance exams are as mentioned below -

Entrance Exam	College/University
JEE Mains	Accepted by All Major Engineering College Across the Country
JEE Advanced	Accepted by All the IIT's
BITSAT	BITS Pilani
SRMJEEE	SRM Chennai
VITEEE	VIT University, Vellore
IPU CET	Indraprastha University, Delhi

Medical Sciences

NEET or the National Eligibility cum Entrance exam conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education is the common entrance exam for admission to majority of the medical college in India. Some institutes like AIIMS also conduct their own entrance exams to admit students for MBBS, pharmacy and other medical courses. Other major entrance exam for medical students are as mentioned below -

Entrance Exam	College/University
National Eligibility-cum- Entrance Exam for Under Graduate (NEET- UG)	All India level single entrance- cum- eligibility test for admission in MBBS/BDS courses.
Armed Forces Medical College Entrance Exam (AFMC)	Entrance exam for Armed Forces Medical College
AIIMS MBBS	National level exam conducted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for admission to MBBS seats in AIIMS New Delhi and to the other six new AIIMS like institutions.
JIPMER MBBS Entrance Test	Conducted by Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) for admission to MBBS course
AIPVT	The All India Pre-Veterinary Test (AIPVT) is an entrance exam conducted for admission to five years B. Vsc and AH courses in India.

Commerce

CPT or the Common Proficiency Test is the entry level exam for the Chartered Accountancy Course that is one of the most popular course choices for commerce students. Other major competitive exams for commerce students include –

Entrance Exam	College/University
CPT Entrance Exam - Common Proficiency Test or Foundation Exam	Entry level exam for Chartered Accountancy Course conducted by ICAI - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
UPSEE Entrance Exam	Uttar Pradesh Technical University (UPTU)
IPU CET Entrance Exam	Common Entrance Test conducted by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU)
SET Entrance Exam	Conducted by Symbiosis University for admission to 18 undergraduate courses
LSAT Entrance Exam Law School Admission Test	Mandatory admission test for the numerous law institutions in India
CLAT Entrance Exam Common Law Admission Test	National level Law entrance exam

Arts

Owing the vast scope of study for the humanities students, there are many entrance exams for an Arts student to choose from. Depending on the type of course that you want to pursue and also the colleges and courses that you want to join, you can shortlist major entrance exams in the respective field. Some popular art colleges/universities and the entrance exams conducted by them are as mentioned below

Name of the Exam	University/ College
IIT HSEE	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
TISS BAT	Tata Institute of Social Science (Guwahati, Tripura and Hyderabad)
BHU UET	Banaras Hindu University
DU CATE	University of Delhi
Patna Women's College Entrance Exam	Patna University
AUAT	Aliah University
JMIEE	Jamia Millia Islamia
Jawaharlal Nehru University Entrance Examination (B.A. Hons.)	Jawaharlal Nehru University
Aligarh Muslim University Entrance Exam (B.A. Hons.)	Aligarh Muslim University