

PART III: Why is STEM important to you?

This is the third and final part in a series with UW Oshkosh Student Support and Student Support Services STEM, diving into the important aspects of the STEM fields, how it applies to students and how your current major or interests may align with STEM-Oriented careers... Want to know more about the STEM field? Check out our first two write-up in this series, '[What is STEM?](#)' and '[Why is STEM important?](#)' for more information.

So why STEM? How does this grouping of careers, college majors and areas of study impact each and every person who is reading this even if you are not majoring in a STEM area? There is quite a big impact, actually.

In the job market, it is getting harder and harder to decipher individual skills that only apply to certain career paths. Naturally, the trades will have individualistic traits to each of them, but even those still have characteristics to each job that transition over into other careers. Think of all of the changes to technology in the last 10+ years. Your ability to navigate technology is just one example of how STEM content and knowledge can impact you moving forward.

The fluidity that has evolved over the past number of years and what the job market looks like now has helped students like **YOU** get a better and, more importantly, a clearer outlook on what a prospective job will look like when it comes time for you to transition into your career path. STEM has influenced any number of careers over time. Your ability to decipher the differences may set you apart from your peers. Your ability to pair soft skills with hard skills can make all the difference in the world when it comes to an interview.

As a whole, liberal arts have a hand in most career fields, whether you realize it or not. By definition, different levels of math, physical & social science and writing are what liberal arts are, and pretty much any job you can find has at least one of these aspects in an everyday occurrence in any number of career options you may choose.

STEM influences liberal arts, with the evolution of careers, the skills students learn while in school translate into a multitude of different career options. Taking STEM classes while in college helps prepare students more for real-life applications than for upper-level courses in the student's major(s) of choice.

The job outlook has not looked this good in a long time for job seekers, as the unemployment rate is currently at 4.1 percent, as of March of 2018. This rate has remained consistent since October of last year, showing how the economy is hitting its sweet spot for the time being.

Being able to go into the job market with the necessary skills and training for your desired career can set you out from your competition, versus not having that valuable experience that

many employers are looking for. By learning these STEM skills, you are able to put yourself one step closer to that position you have always dreamed of.

Bottom line: the fluidity of STEM and STEAM (with art added in) helps cover a vast array of areas, skills and emphases for students to succeed in the job market with. These skills are able to be translated from job to job across the different markets and niches, which can help gauge student interest and help lead students like **YOU** down the correct career path.