Choosing My Major

Questions to ask myself

If I were to choose a major at this moment, what would it be and why?
What skills do I want to learn in order to prepare for a career?
If I could do one thing for free, what would it be?
What can I see myself doing for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week?
What are the positive/negative sides of choosing this major?
What jobs/hobbies/extracurricular activities have I enjoyed the most so far?
How would I spend my time if money didn’t matter?
What are my goals at Duke? What are my goals in my career and life? How can they coexist?
What is my gut telling me regarding major choice?
Have I talked to anyone in the majors I am considering?
Have I met a Duke alum yet, and asked them what they studied?
Have I looked at Duke alumni on LinkedIn and/or Duke Alumni Directory to see their majors and different positions?
What interests do I want to explore?
Are there any problems I would like to address or solve? How might what I study factor in to my ability to tackle those problems?
What have I been successful in so far? (You can measure this success by coursework you’ve taken, organizations you’ve founded or been a part of, athletics, or by utilizing a particular skillset.)
What subjects do I like the most? Do these subjects come naturally to me?

Questions to ask departments or advisors

Does this major allow for research, study abroad, and/or internships/fellowships?
Why do students select this major?
What are the implications of majoring in this subject versus minoring in it?
How much flexibility does this major have? (Consider those college/life/career goals)
What are the specific course requirements for this major?
Are there scholarships/funding available specifically for students in this major?
What skills will this major help me develop?
What kinds of jobs do students with this major typically pursue?
Is graduate school usually required to work in the fields associated with this major?

Notes: