

Choosing the best class...

In college, it's important to take classes that will hold your interest. **The two most important things are the books and the professor.** Sign up for a class when you have to, but at the start of the semester a little work goes a long way.

For non-electives with more than one section, try to go to different sections of the same class with different instructors, especially if the instructor for the one you're signed up for is excruciatingly boring. There are vast differences in teaching styles; find an instructor that suits your style.

For electives, there's more work involved, but the payoff can be great.

First, visit the bookstore and look over the textbooks for all the qualifying classes. What will hold your interest for an entire semester? Read a paragraph or two, or a single page, in the textbook. Is the writing dry and boring?

Then, the first week of classes, go to the first meeting of every class you have time for. Sit close to the door just in case it's an easy "no" so you can slip out early. **You'll find that something that sounded interesting on paper may not be because of a droning professor,** and that a subject you really hadn't given much thought is suddenly compelling because of an engaging, intelligent, and entertaining professor.

Even if a course is closed, don't let that stop you. Professors will often let you in if you're enthusiastic and show up for the first day of class.

Geography Facts

Longest River: Nile River (Africa), 4,160 miles

Highest Elevation: Mt. Everest, 29,035 feet

Longest Mountain Range: Andes Mountains (South America), 4,700 miles

Highest Waterfall: Salto Angel "Angel Falls", (Venezuela), 3,212 feet

Most Active Volcano: Kilauea (Hawaii, USA), erupting continuously since 1983

Largest Island: Greenland, 839,999 square miles

Largest Ocean: Pacific Ocean (45.9% of the world's oceans)

Deepest Lake: Lake Baikal (Russia), 5,371 feet

Largest Forest: The taiga of northern Russia, 2.7 billion acres

Longest Cave System: Mammoth Cave (Kentucky, USA), 345 miles

Largest Desert: Sahara Desert (Africa), 3,200 miles wide

Largest Swamp: The Pantanal Swamp (Brazil), 42,000 square miles