

## Steps in Choosing the Right Course

It is extremely important that you find out as much as you can about a course before putting it down as a preference on your CAO form. Answer the following questions for each course on your list. Do this honestly and give yourself a score – anything less than 100% is a cause for concern and an indication of where action is required.

Course Title \_\_\_\_\_ Points last Year \_\_\_\_\_

	Please consider the following when making your choice	Yes	No
1	Have you read the detailed information about this course?		
2	Have you checked which courses have specific requirements e.g. particular subjects at LC?		
3	Have you got advice or an opinion from a student who has studied on that course?		
4	Are you on target to get the required points?		
5	Have you spoken to anyone working in this area?		
6	Have you investigated the career path from this course?		
7	Have you gone to the Open Day – with questions to ask?		
8	Will you be studying something completely new, not connected to any of your existing subjects?		
9	Is the course part of your career plan?		
10	Will you be happy on a very academic course, with lots of theory to study, essays to write?		
11	Do you really want to study this for the next four years?		
12	Is this a course you really want to do, or are you following other students in your year group?		
13	Do you know how to use Qualifax?		
14	Have you discussed your choice with a Guidance Counsellor <u>AND</u> your parents?		
15	Have you discussed the cost of this course with your parents?		
16	If you are considering studying/working in science, technology, maths or engineering – have you watched videos/ read career stories on SmartFutures.ie?		
17	If you are considering studying/working in science, technology, maths or engineering – have you asked your school to request free career talks from SmartFutures.ie?		
18	If you are planning to go into Science, Computing or Engineering - have you got good numeracy skills (Mathematics) as it is an essential skill for these and other programmes?		
19	Are you sure you are not under pressure to go in a certain direction?		
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**Essential points for good decision making.**

1. **Facts** – clear, first hand and only trust what you understand.
2. **Time** – start early with sufficient time to digest the information and even change your mind a few times.
3. **Support** - from school, home and friends is very important but don't allow support to become pressure – think for yourself.
4. **Advice** - discuss your plans with others and be open to their comments. You have to make the final decision, but not without lots of help from others.