



Understanding College Majors

Analise Burko
& Marcos de la Torre

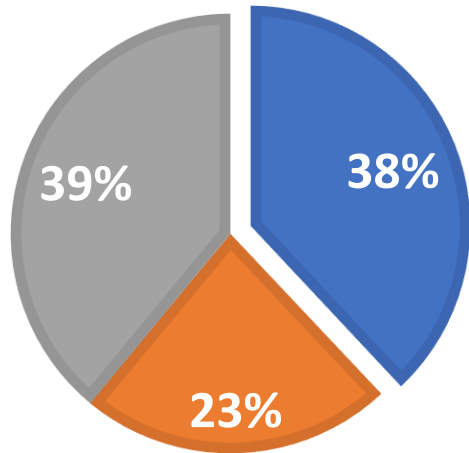


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Imagine you are 17 again...

You are applying for college and must choose a major.

→ Would YOU rather have studied something else?



- Change - better jobs
- Change - other reasons
- No change

61% would change their undergraduate studies if they could go back
(<https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/college-graduate-majors-survey/>)

- 38% would change for **better job opportunities**
- 23% would change for other reasons



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Some data may help

In this presentation we provide some figures that may help understand the impact of the **major choice**, in terms of:

- (qualified) **employment**
- **income**



Behind the data...



American Community Survey
2010-2012

IDENTIFIERS

Major

**Major
Category**

DEMOGRAPHICS

**Total
Students**

**Men/
Women**

ECONOMICS

**Median
Income**

**Employed/
Unemployed**

**College-jobs/
non-college
jobs**

**Low-wage
jobs**

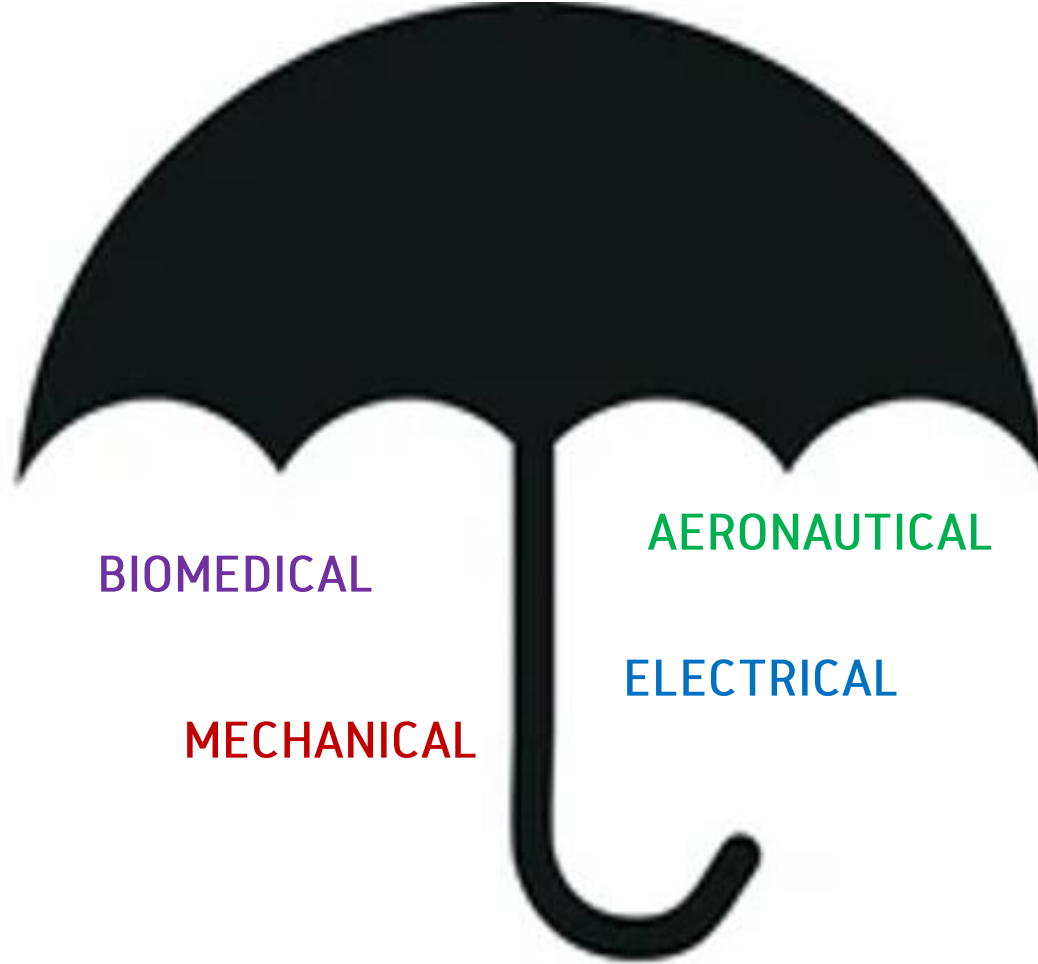
**Full-time/Part-
time**



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Major Categories

ENGINEERING



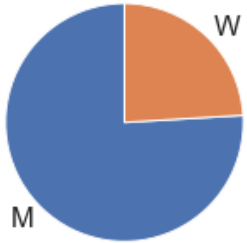
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Category Popularity



Popularity by Gender

C = ENGINEER



C = COMPUTER



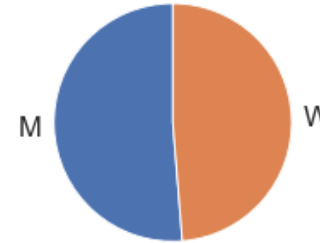
C = AGRICULT



C = PHYSICAL



C = BUSINESS



C = LAW & PU



C = SOCIAL S



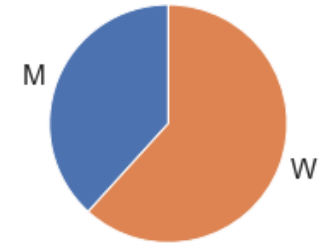
C = INDUSTRI



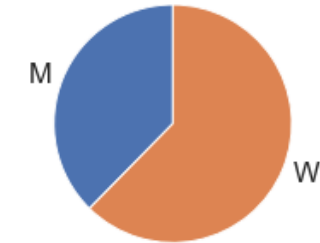
C = BIOLOGY



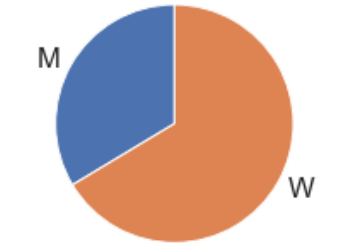
C = HUMANITI



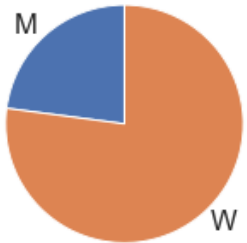
C = ARTS



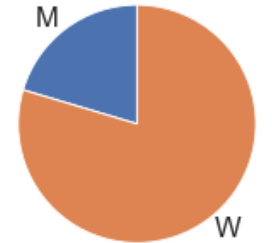
C = COMMUNIC



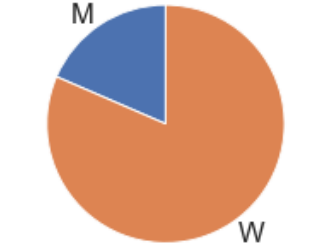
C = INTERDIS



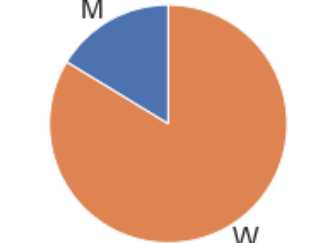
C = PSYCHOLO



C = EDUCATIO

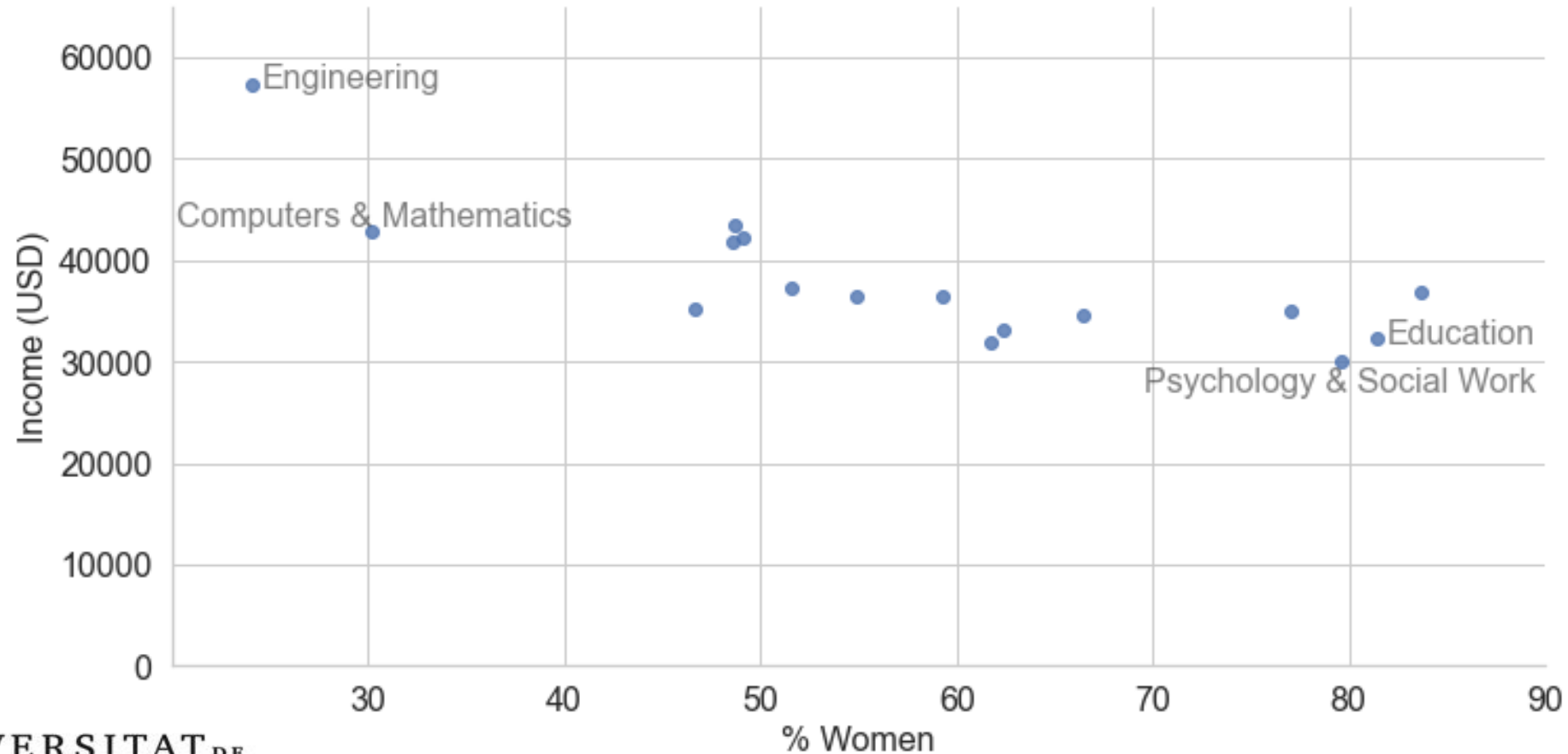


C = HEALTH



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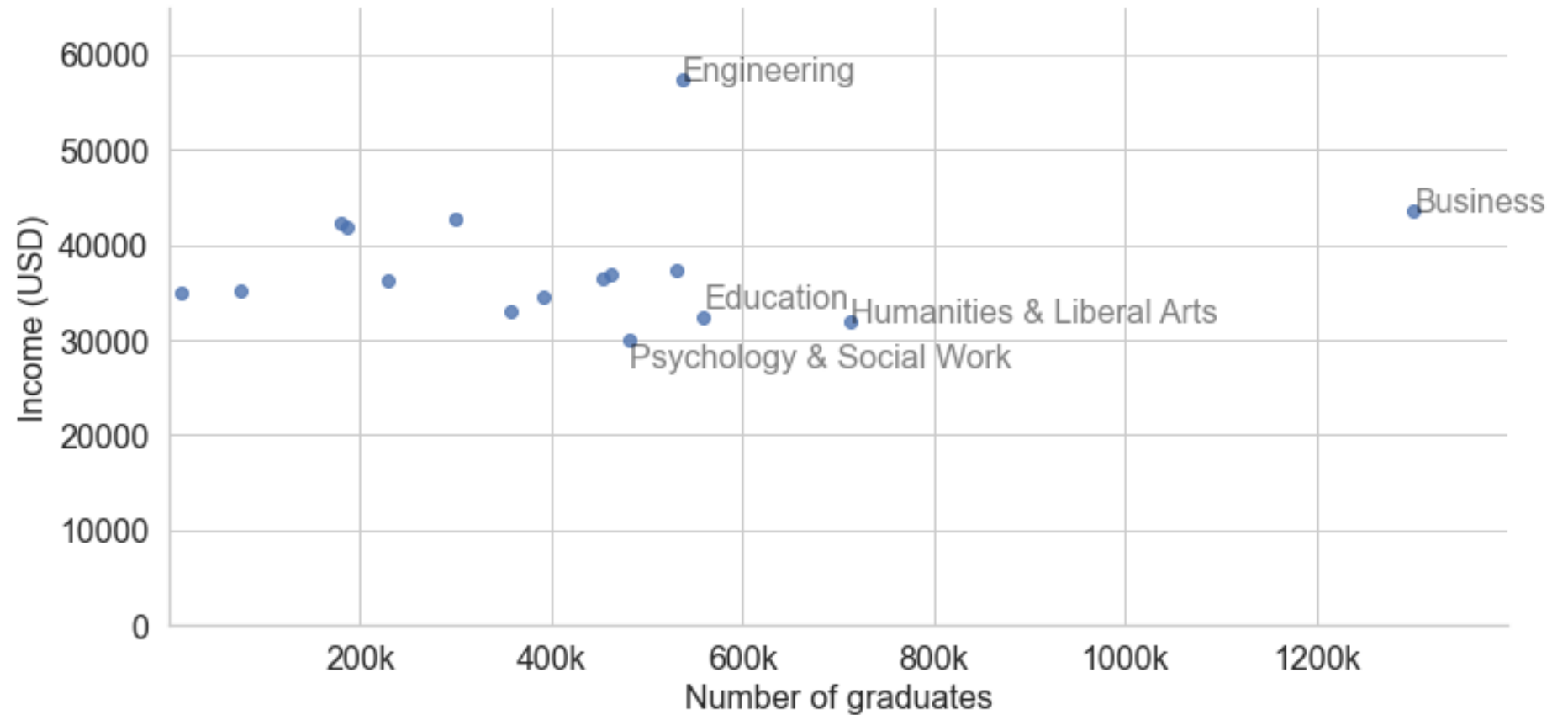
Income by rate of female student



However,

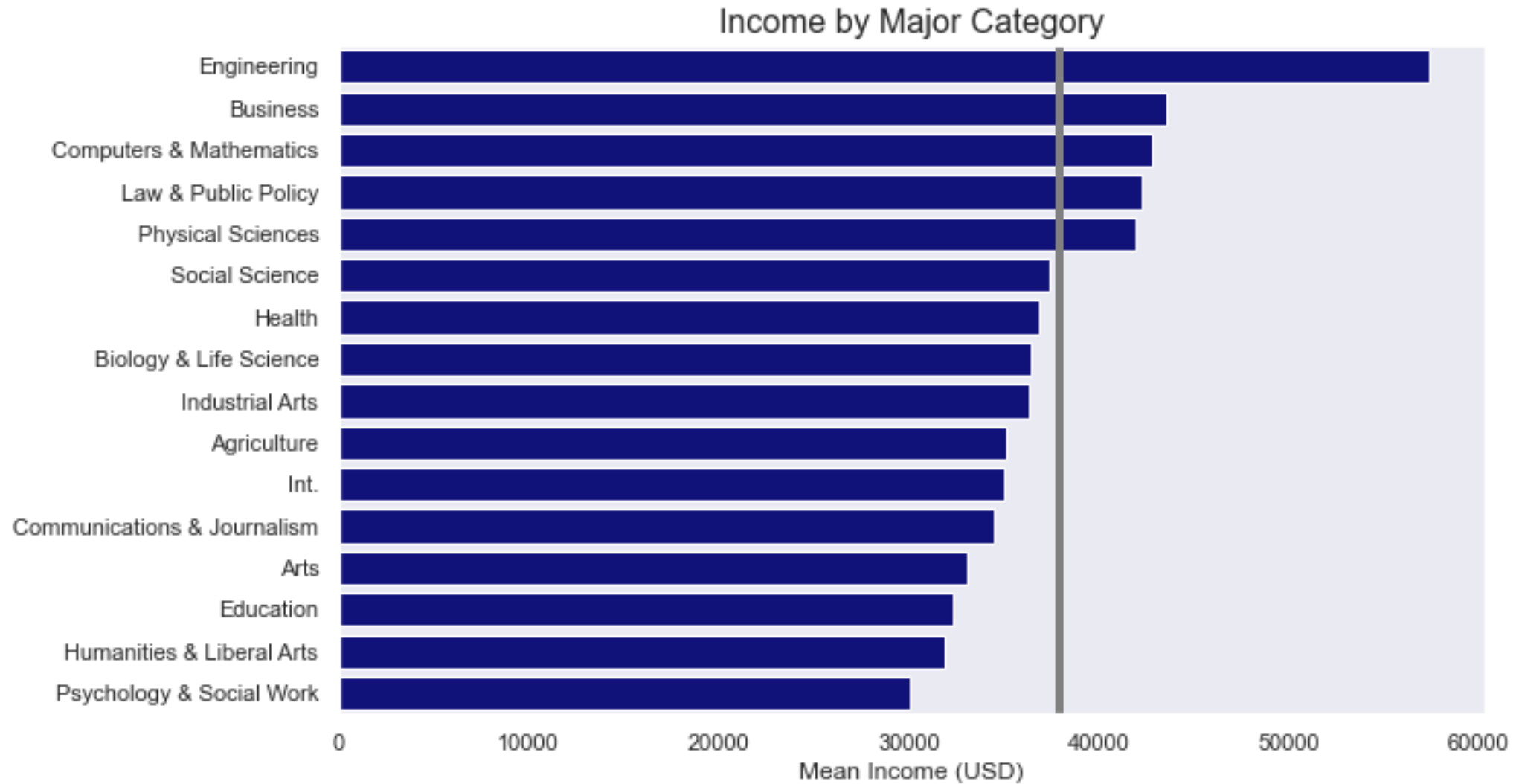
Popularity \neq Economic Success

There are plenty of areas that attract students but do not promise employability or high salaries

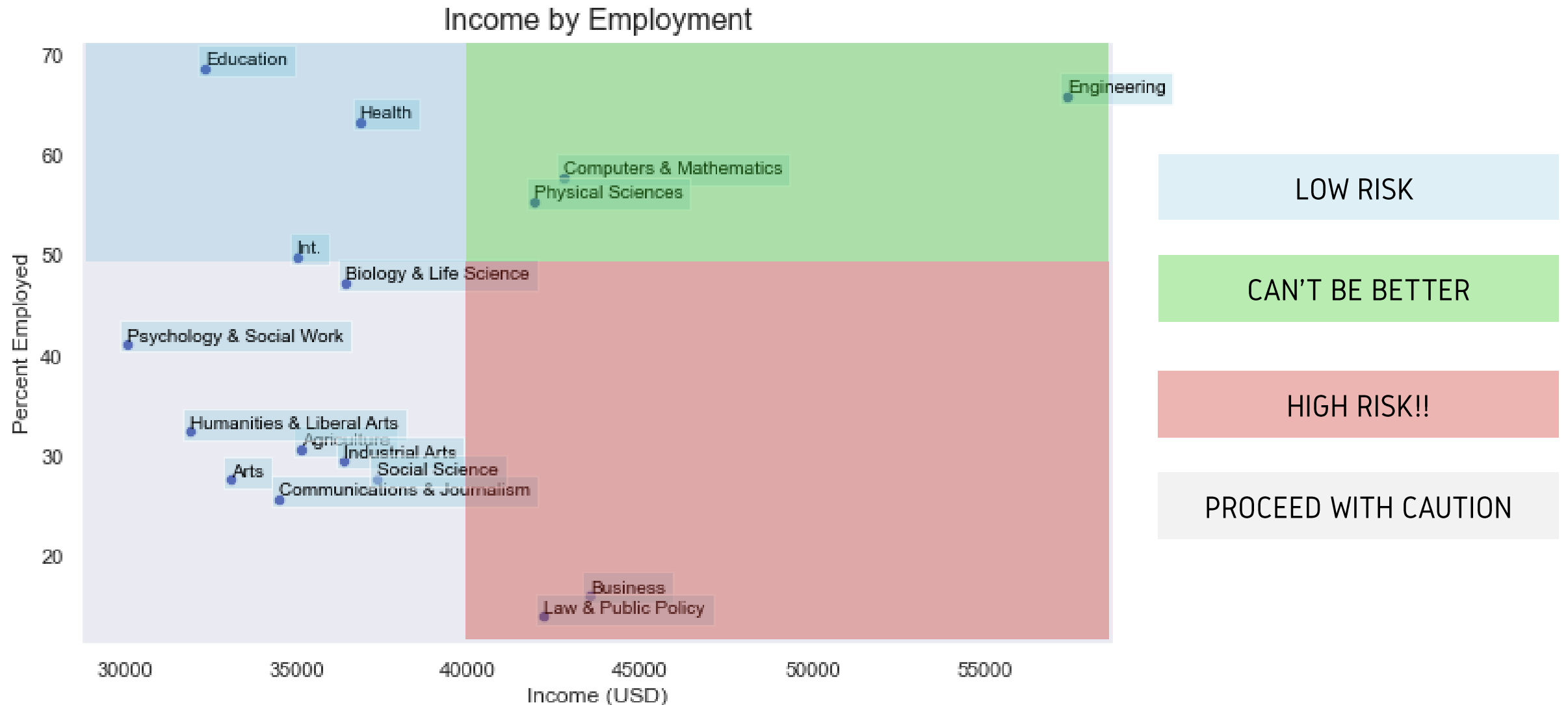


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Income by Category

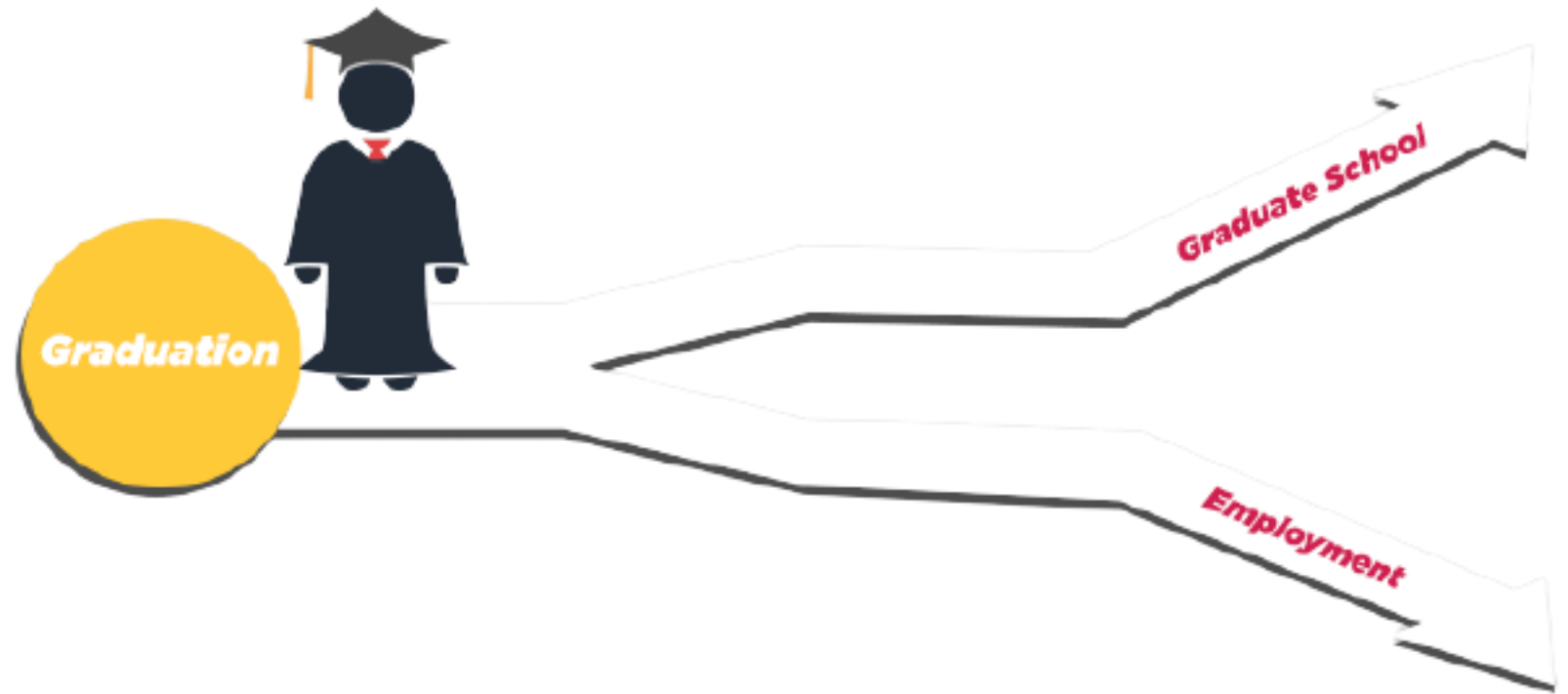


But we should also consider Employability!



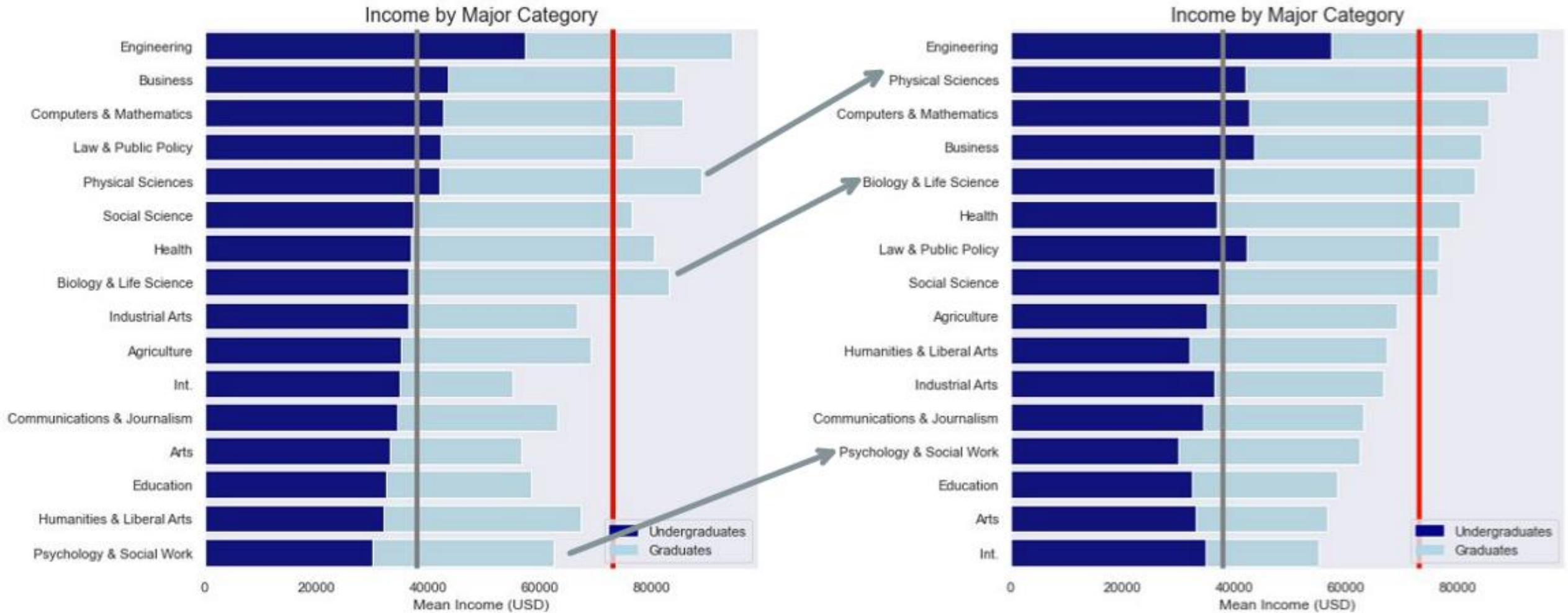
The story doesn't end there, there's always...

Graduate School



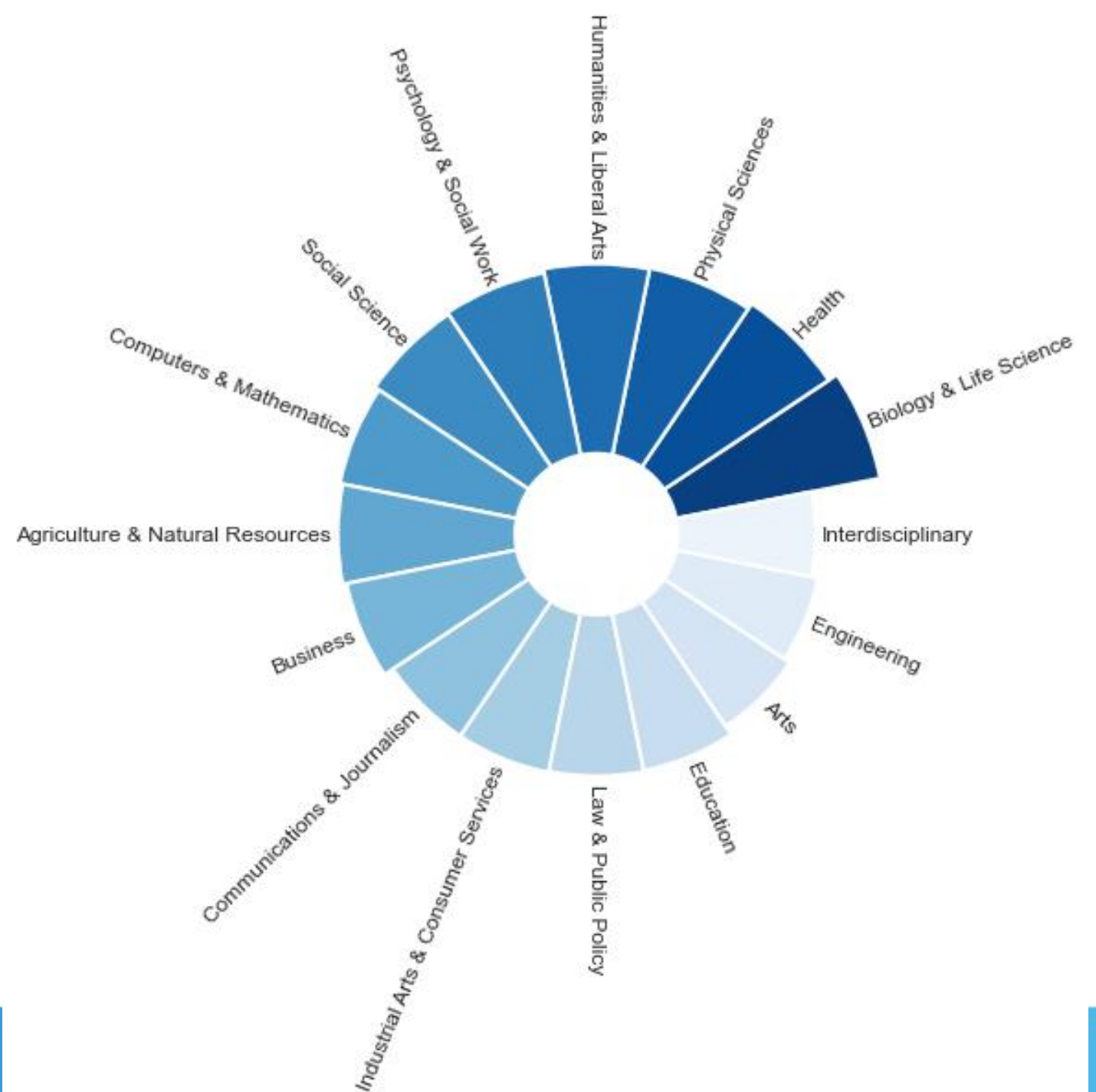
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Economics



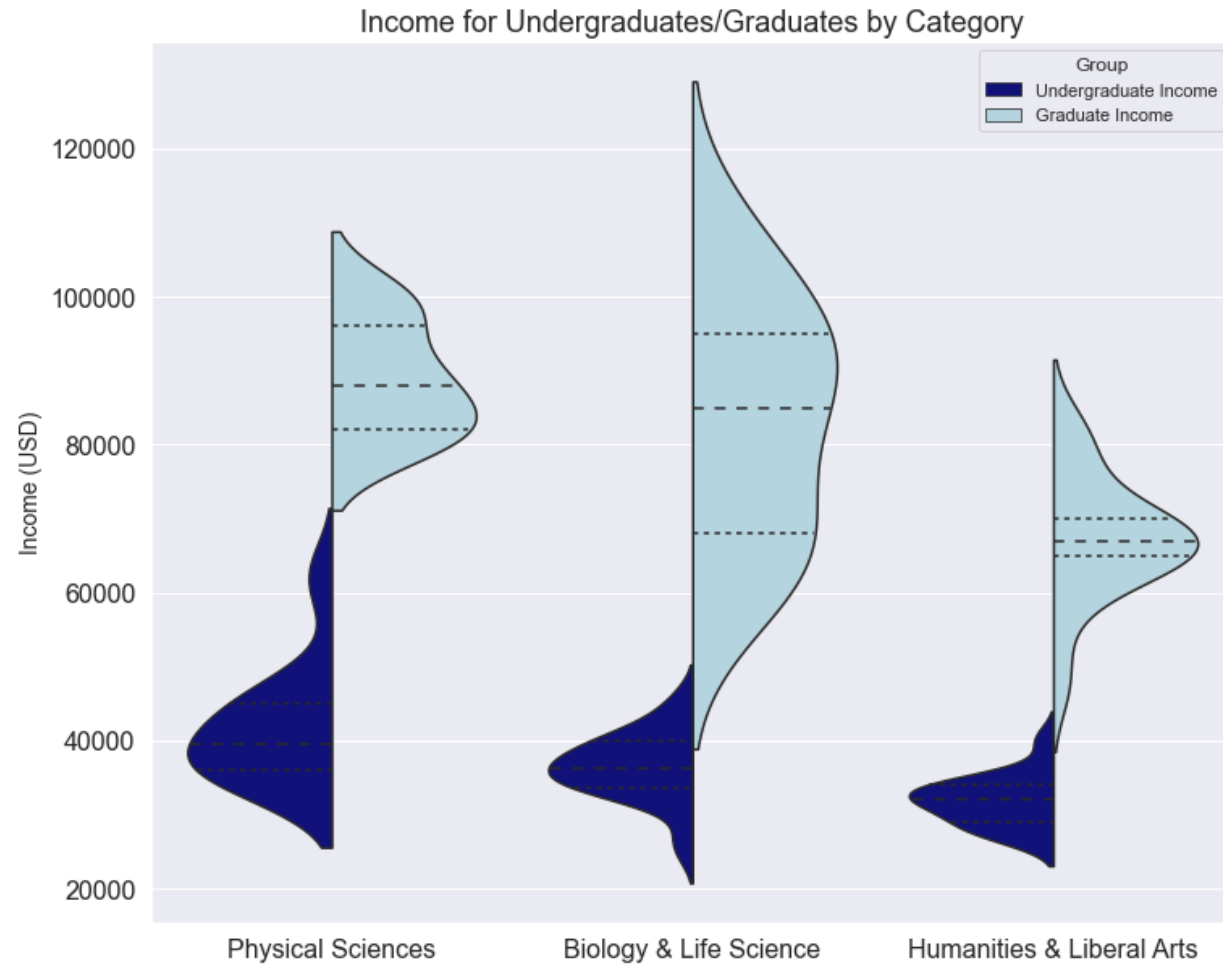
Percent income change

- All major categories have a large percent increase in income
- Categories with the **GREATEST** change
 - Biology & Life Sciences
 - Health
 - Physical Sciences
- Categories with the **LEAST** change
 - Education
 - Arts
 - Engineering

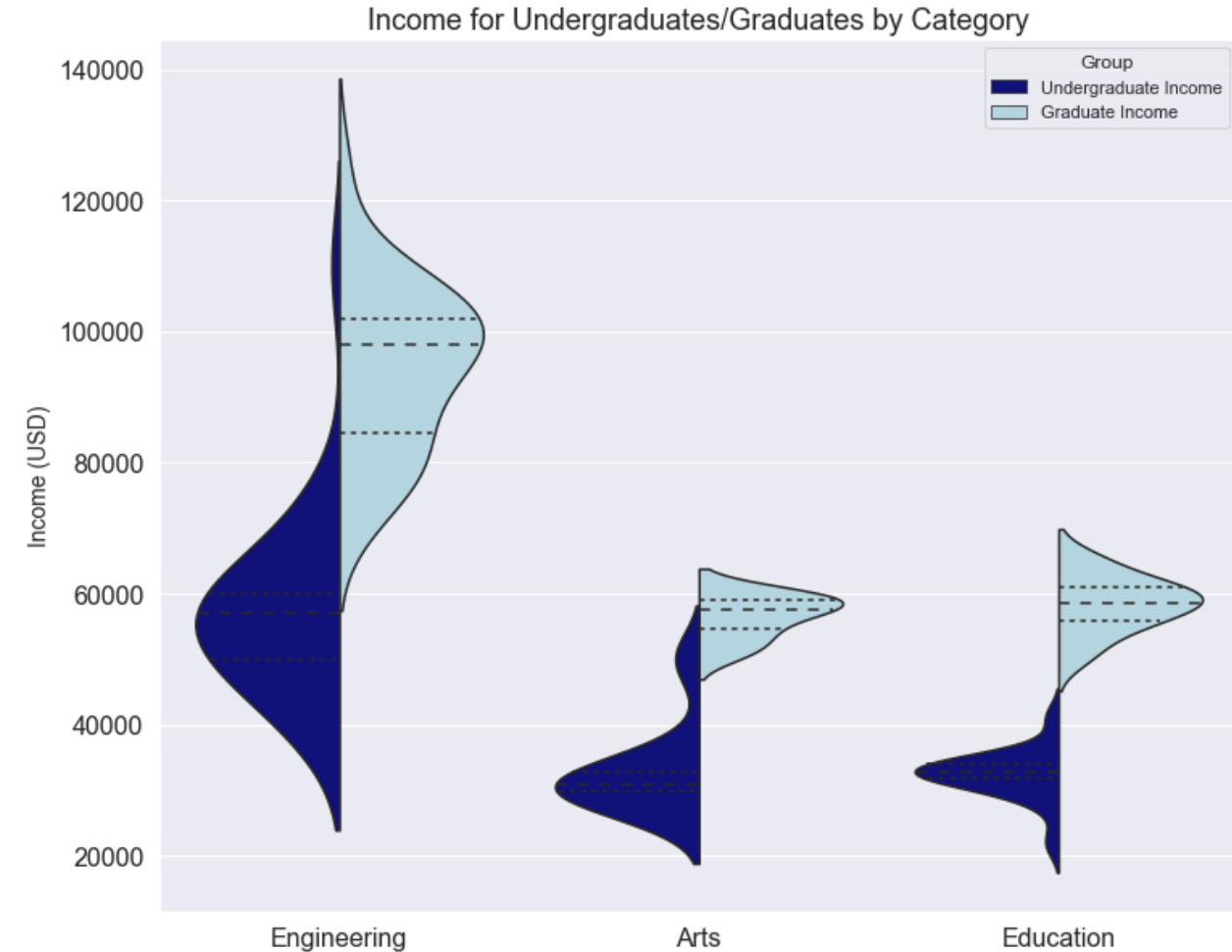


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A Graduate degree increases income significantly...



Greatest Change



Least Change

LIMITATIONS

- our data is taken from recent graduates and post-graduates
- Survey is from 2010-2012
- Geographically constrained

LOOKING FORWARD

- Find more diverse data in terms of:
 - Long-term career progression
 - Demographics (age, gender, etc.)
 - Represented countries



Thank you!



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