Project #2 – Grinnell College Graduate First Destinations

Client:

Sarah Barks – Director, STEM Career Community

Description:

Each year, in collaboration with the Center for Careers, Life, and Service (CLS), Grinnell College surveys the current graduating class to learn about their post-graduation plans. Some public reports, data visualizations, and additional information on these surveys are available here: <https://www.grinnell.edu/after-grinnell/cls/about/post-graduation>. However, these existing reports do not fully utilize the wide-range of variables collected as a part of these surveys. This project seeks to identify under-utilized variables and explore them both descriptively and in relation to other variables of institutional importance. Some variables of institutional importance include: graduate school selectivity indices, career path satisfaction, CLS utilization, and differential effects by major, gender, ethnicity, and/or other demographic variables. The project will involve several survey iterations, beginning with the class of 2012 and ending with the class of 2018, each containing slightly different questions and response codes. Depending on the findings, expanding the data visualizations displayed on the CLS webpage is another potential goal of this project.

Data Size:

Several datasets of ~300 observations and ~50 variables

Final Product:

A professional report summarizing the characteristics of under-utilized variables, as well as their relationships with key institutional measures, possibly accompanied by a set of professional-quality data visualizations that could be used on the CLS webpage.

Possible Additional project (#3):

Each year, in collaboration with the Center for Careers, Life, and Service (CLS), Grinnell College surveys the current graduating class to learn about their post-graduation plans. Some public reports, data visualizations, and additional information on these surveys are available here: <https://www.grinnell.edu/after-grinnell/cls/about/post-graduation>. Unfortunately, these surveys alone do not achieve a 100% response rate, a substantial amount of data must be obtained manually via the Linkedin profiles of graduates. This project seeks to help automate data acquisition via Linkedin using web scraping, an act recently deemed legal by the 9th US Court of Appeals: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/emmawoollacott/2019/09/10/linkedin-data-scraping-ruled-legal/#236b99d81b54>. The scraping tool should be user-friendly such that it can be used in future years. Possible extensions of this project involve developing tools to acquire data on the movement of Grinnell graduates as they progress through their career paths.