

Each year, around 2.5 million students graduate from high school in the United States of America. During this year, and most likely many years before it, each one of these students will have to make a life changing decision; what do they do after high school? And for those who decide to go to college, they also have to make the crucial decision on what they want to major in.

Our research question is simple: we want to know what college majors provide the best opportunities for college students after they graduate. More specifically, we want to know which majors lead to the highest paying jobs, low unemployment rate, and best median salary. This question is important to research because as



time moves forward, inflation and other economic factors makes college more expensive to attend. With such a high price, it is imperative that those who go to college will end up with a high paying job to help pay off their college student loans if they have any. If someone picks a major that does not pay well, have many job opportunities, or both, this can lead to severe financial hardship in their lives and add unnecessary stress to life as well. With this in mind, we plan to analyze our data using a few important factors: Median salary, 25% and 75% salary percentile, unemployment rate, number of those employed (both full and part time). With these factors, we will be able to analyze the data in order to determine which majors would be better to pick overall. While we may not be able to say one major is the definitive best to chose, we hope to provide a list of a few majors that would lead to the most success in someone's life.

For our research project, we want to find out what major would provide for the best income and job opportunities for the future. To determine this, we first hypothesized that STEM majors would be more suitable to being the answer to our question than Humanity majors. In

other words, STEM majors would offer more, and higher paying jobs than Humanity majors would. This hypothesis is important because it not only gives a starting point on how to analyze the data, but it also leads to fulfilling results that can be used to answer our research question.



To determine the results for our hypothesis, we will break the majors into two groups, STEM and Humanity majors. Then, we will analyze each major in the groups and come up with an average and median result for the salaries, unemployment rate, salary percentiles, and full time employment. Once

we come up with those numbers, we will compare them between both groups and determine which group of majors would be better to choose. In finding this out, we will be able to use that information to help answer our research question as to what would be the best major(s) to pick going into college.

#### Schedule:

- **Feb 10th:** proposal Due
- **Feb 15th:** Ricky: Start comparing data for Overall Majors: graduated, undergraduate, dropped out, stem/humanities
- **Feb 18th:** Cheyann: Start Comparing Salaries: Highest paid, lowest paid, part time/ full time
- **Feb 22nd** Ricky: Reevaluate Timeline, Compare unemployment/Employment, and incorporating majors
- **Feb 25th:** Cheyann: Compare Genders (histograms)
- **March 1st:** Ricky: Start report
- **March 8th:** Cheyann: Run overall summary

- **March 10th:** Ricky & Cheyann: evaluate timeline
- **March 24th:** Ricky & Cheyann Presentation/ Preliminary/ Data
- **April 19th:** Ricky & Cheyann: Modeling Demonstration/Peer Review Draft
- **May 8th:** Ricky & Cheyann: Final Present