

U. Miami Non-Undergraduate Survey: Family Influence

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In this report, we examined non-undergraduate results to questions Q29, Q30, and Q30A, which asked respondents whether their families had been supportive of and/or tried to influence their choice of college major, and the ways in which they did so.

I. Visualizations and Statistics

Q29: How supportive was your family?

Total Respondents: 198 out of 236

Yes, Very Supportive: 60%

Yes, Somewhat Supportive: 22%

No, Not Supportive: 2%

N/A: 0%

No Answer: 16%

Q30: Did your family ever try to influence your choice of major?

Total Respondents: 201 out of 236

Yes: 36% No: 49% N/A: 0%

No Answer: 15%

Q30A:If so, what reasons did they give?

Total Respondents: 78 out of 85¹

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¹ Only those who answered "Yes" were asked this question.



Fig. 1: Word cloud of Q30A

II: Observations

Like the undergraduate results, perceived job market and salary are the major factors family members consider when trying to influence choices of major; unlike the undergraduates, prestige and respect also emerged as factors for the non-undergraduates.

Ethnic background was also an influence, as highlighted by these two responses:

- "Latino culture only knows physicians in the health field. So for me to want to become a nurse, it was a downgrade for them. My family did not know in the US, nurses bring their own perspective into patient care, can be autonomous practitioners, and work with physicians in an interdisciplinary team."
- "As a child of immigrants, families want to make sure you are making the best financial decision for your future. That includes choosing high-profile and high-paying professions such as in medicine, law or engineering. I understood why they would want that safety net but there's a million other careers in this world that are both fulfilling and high paying. There is not always a need to compromise."