

U. Miami Undergraduate Survey: Majors and Minors

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In this report, we analyze a cluster of questions (Q171, Q156, Q157, Q159, Q174, QU29) centered around the undergraduates' majors and minors.

I: Visualizations and Statistics

Q171: What is your major? If you are double majoring, list your first major here.

Total Respondents: 294 out of 301¹

There were 70 total majors listed by our respondents. The most popular majors (all at least ten people) were:

- political science (26)
- biology (22)
- psychology (16)
- neuroscience (14)
- biomedical engineering (14)
- health science (11)
- nursing (11)
- microbiology and immunology (10)
- finance (10)
- public health (10)

Q156: Are you double majoring?

Total Respondents: 297 out of 301²

Yes: 32%

No: 66%

No Answer: 1%

¹ Participants could only answer this question if they had answered "Yes" to Q170 (Have you declared your major? [If you are undeclared or "Exploratory," please select No.]).

² Participants could only answer this question if they had answered "Yes" yes to Q170 (Have you declared your major? [If you are undeclared or "Exploratory," please select No.]).

Q157: What is your second major?

Total Respondents: 90 out of 97³

There were 44 total second majors listed by our respondents. The most popular second majors (at least five people) were:

- Spanish (9)
- psychology (8)
- economics (5)

Q159: Do you have any minors?

Total Respondents: 280 out of 312

Yes: 65%

No: 25%

No Answer: 10%

Q174: Please list your minors

Total Respondents: 200 out of 203⁴

There were 69 total minors listed by our respondents. The most popular minors (at least ten people) were:

- chemistry (57)
- psychology (27)
- public health (14)
- Spanish (12)
- art and art history (10)
- math (10)

³ Participants could only answer this question if they had answered yes to Q156 (Are you double majoring?).

⁴ Participants could only answer this question if they had answered "Yes" to Q159 (Do you have any minors?)

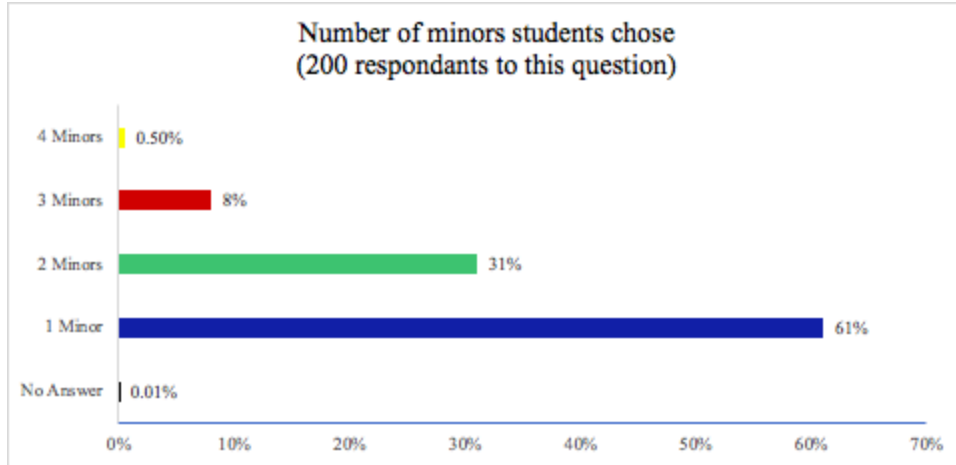


Fig. 1: Number of Minors Students Chose (based on Q174).

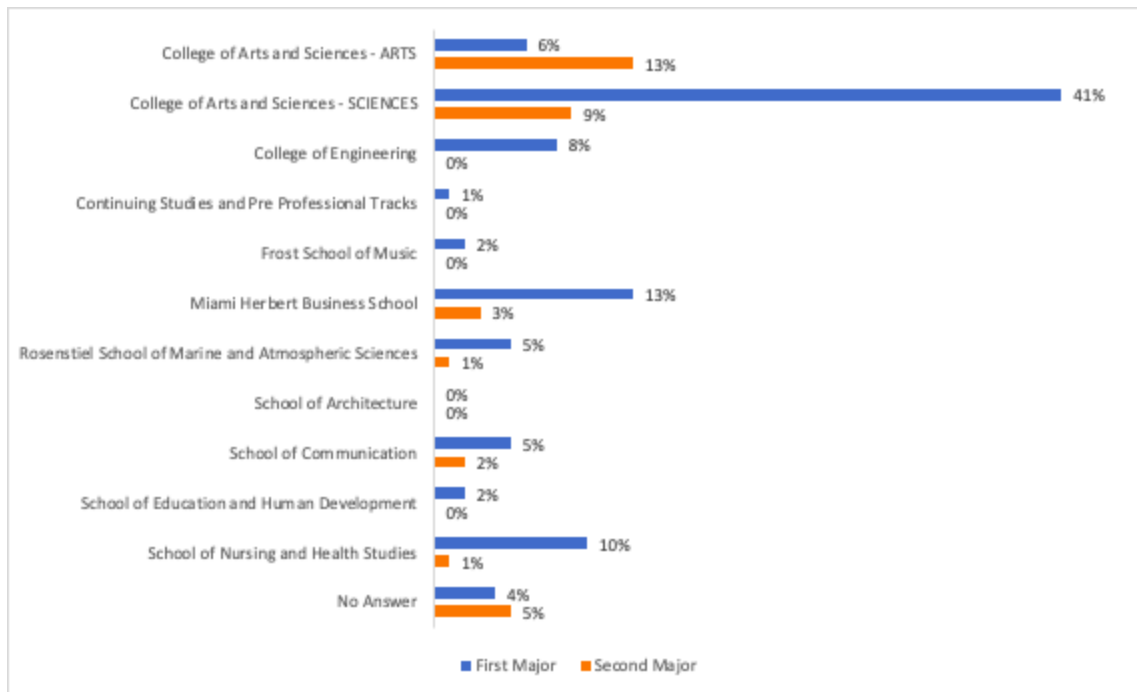


Fig. 2: Choice of major and second major by school

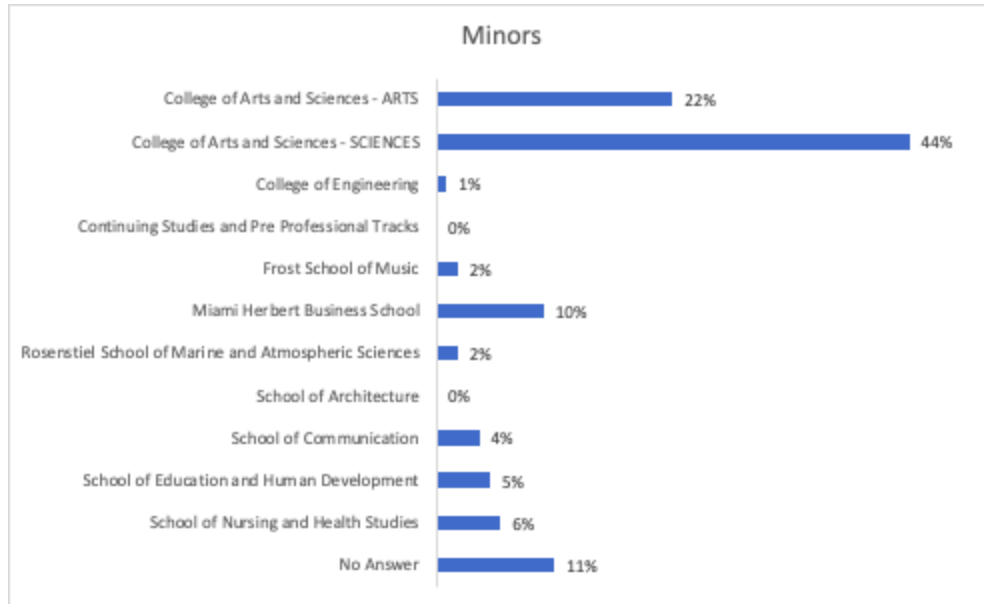


Fig. 3: Choice of minor by school (students could write in multiple minors)

QU29: Which, if any, resources helped/are helping you to decide what to major in? (Please check all that apply.)

Total Respondents: 256 out of 312

- Books or articles: 30%
- Blogs/websites/online forums: 29%
- Social media: 19%
- Interviews or talks: 26%
- Conversations with friends: 48%
- Conversations with family: 46%
- Classes/conversations with teachers: 58%
- Resources from tutors/advisors/mentors: 27%
- Other: 6%
- No answer: 18%

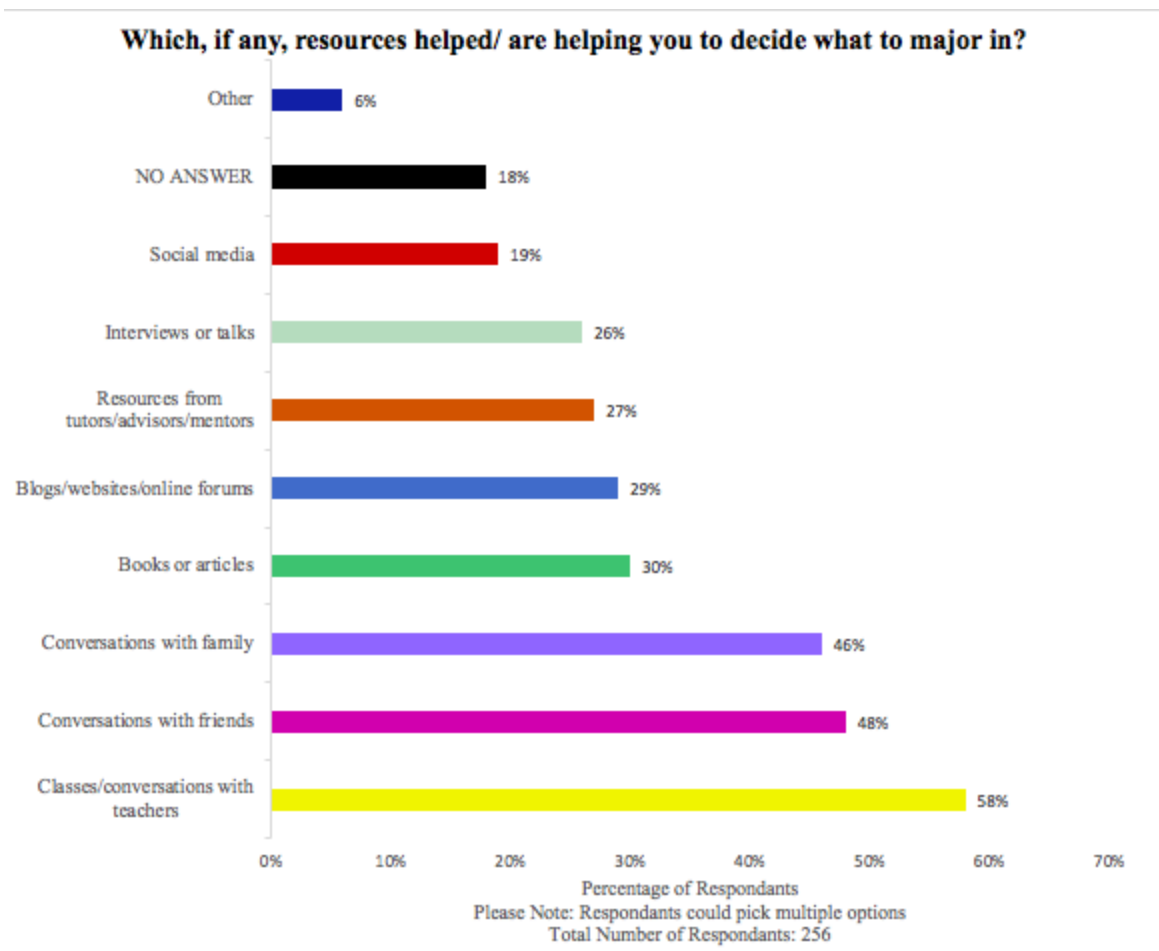


Fig. 3: QU29

II: Observations

The majority of students had at least one minor, and nearly 40% had two or three. The cognate system at University of Miami (see [MR-9-35](#)) makes adding minors easier, hence the high numbers.

For Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, we used [University of Miami’s categorization of majors and minors by school](#). We then [manually separated subjects](#) in the College of Arts and Sciences into “Arts” and “Sciences,” based on the type of degree awarded and the manner in which it is organized at UM. Of course, there are some disciplines that do not fit neatly into either category; as such, we used our discretion. Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 demonstrate that arts subjects are more likely to be chosen as second majors or minors across the board. For example, political science is the most popular major among respondents. We categorized this as a science subject, but an argument could definitely be made for it to be an arts subject.