

U. Miami Undergraduate Survey: How Do Participants Perceive Their Majors and Others' Majors?

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In this report, we analyzed a cluster of questions (QU20, Q148, QU24, QU25) centered around students' opinions about their majors.

I. Statistics and Visualizations

QU20-1: I enjoy my major on a daily basis.

Total Respondents: 272 out of 312

Yes: 60%

Depends: 25%

No: 3%

No Answer: 13%

QU20-2: I feel passionate about my major.

Total Respondents: 272 out of 312

Yes: 72%

Depends: 12%

No: 4%

No Answer: 13%

QU20-3: I expect my major to lead to a profitable career.

Total Respondents: 272 out of 312

Yes: 62%

Depends: 19%

No: 6%

No Answer: 13%

QU20-4: I expect my major to lead to a specific career/the career I want.

Total Respondents: 272 out of 312

Yes: 66%

Depends: 15%

No: 6%

No Answer: 13%

QU20-5: I consider my major a "risk."

Total Respondents: 272 out of 312

Yes: 19%

Depends: 19%

No: 49%

No Answer: 13%

QU20-6: I hate my major.

Total Respondents: 271 out of 312

Yes: 2%

Depends: 9%

No: 76%

No Answer: 13%

QU20-7: I'm bored by my major.

Total Respondents: 272 out of 312

Yes: 5%

Depends: 14%

No: 68%

No Answer: 13%

QU20-8: I'm indifferent to my major.

Total Respondents: 272 out of 312

Yes: 6%

Depends: 11%

No: 70%

No Answer: 13%

QU20-9: I would consider changing my major.

Total Respondents: 270 out of 312

Yes: 18%

Depends: 12%

No: 57%

No Answer: 13%

QU24 - Do you think that others have/will have preconceived ideas about you based on your major?¹

Total Respondents: 265 out of 312

Yes: 73%

No: 12%

No Answer: 15%

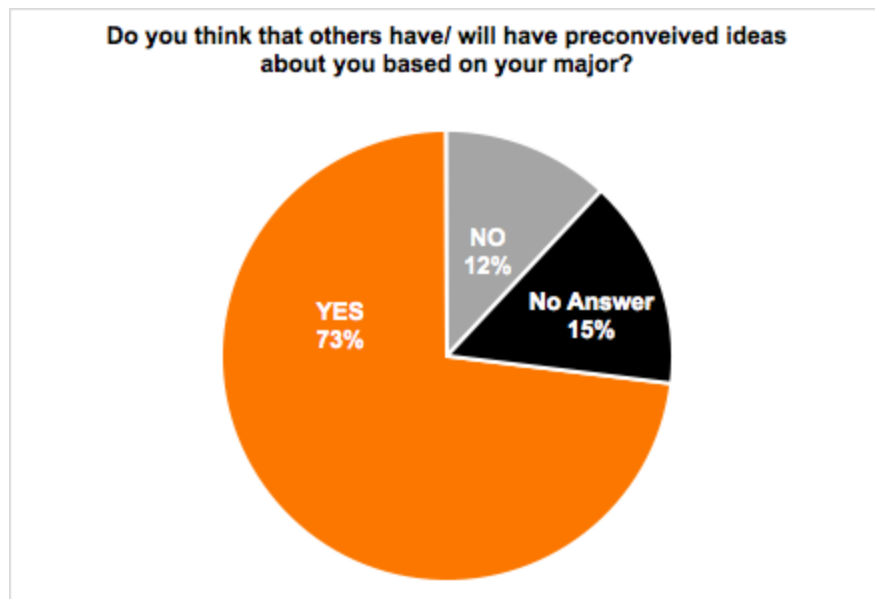


Fig. 1: QU24 results

¹ Unlike UCSB, we omitted the "Depends" response.

QU25: Do you define others based on their majors?

Total Respondents: 265 out of 312

Yes: 45%

No: 40%

No Answer: 15%

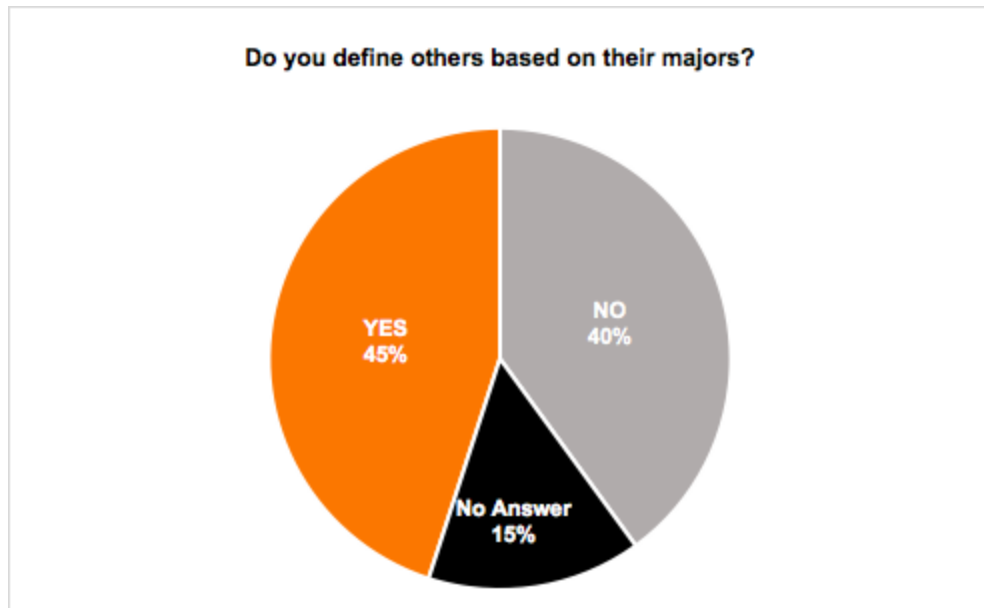


Fig. 1: QU25 results

Q148: I feel that my major is important to my sense of identity.

Total Respondents: 265 out of 312

Strongly Disagree: 4%

Disagree: 7%

Neutral: 15%

Agree: 33%

Strongly Agree: 26%

No Answer: 15%

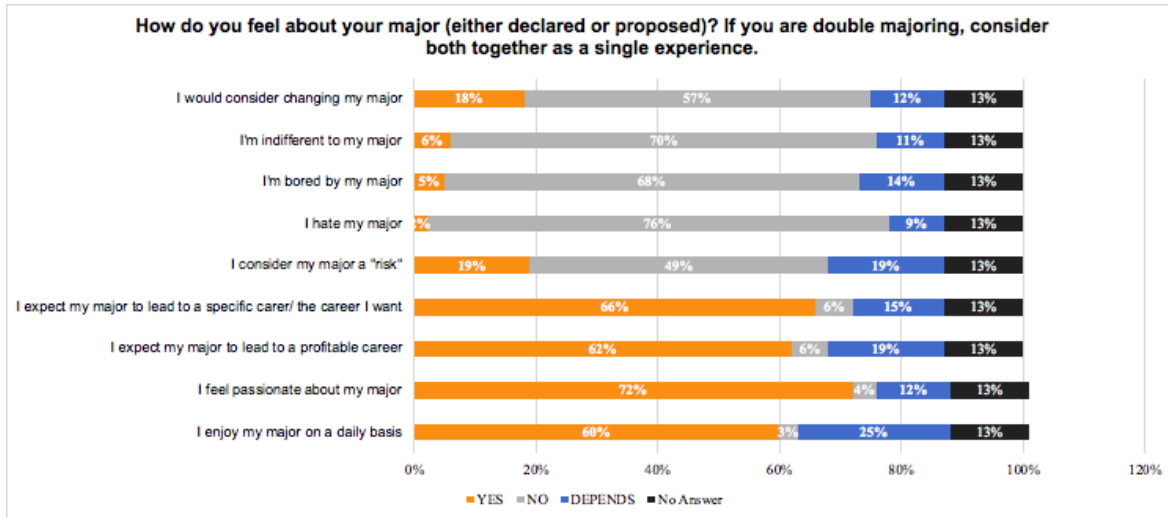


Fig. 1: Q148 results

II. Observations

1. More than two-thirds of participants reported positive opinions about their majors and feel that their majors are important to their senses of identity.
2. More people assume others will judge them based on their major than those who would judge others based on majors; this “gap” between perceived judgment from others based on major, vs. the much lower percentage that say they will actually judge others based on major, is quite consistent with survey findings at UCSB (see [8A - Human Subjects Team WE1S Topic Model Interpretation Report](#))
3. There is a somewhat strong expectation among survey participants that majors **lead to** jobs: 62% expect their major to lead to a profitable career, and 66% expect it to lead to a specific career or the career they want (see [MR-9-17](#) for more details).
4. There is a connection between perceived riskiness of one’s major and career prospect. 38% of respondents considered their major to be risky, including 19% of those who chose “depends.” 25% of the respondents don't feel confident that their major will lead them to the career they want (including “depends”). We suspect that these results are connected to the almost one-third of respondents who said that they did not expect or felt unsure that their major would lead to a profitable career.