

College Majors

This folder contains the data and code behind the story [The Economic Guide To Picking A College Major](#).

All data is from American Community Survey 2010-2012 Public Use Microdata Series.

Download data here: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/pums.html>

Documentation here: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums.html>

college-majors-rscript.R

- Assumes you've already downloaded the data and selected only records with non-NA values for college major (FOD1P)
- Outputs data to csv

majors-list.csv

- List of majors with their FOD1P codes and major categories.
- Major categories are from Carnevale et al, "What's It Worth?: The Economic Value of College Majors." Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2011. <http://cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth>

Three main data files:

- all-ages.csv
- recent-grads.csv (ages <28)
- grad-students.csv (ages 25+)

All contain basic earnings and labor force information. `recent-grads.csv` contains a more detailed breakdown, including by sex and by the type of job they got. `grad-students.csv` contains details on graduate school attendees.

Additionally, `women-stem.csv` contains data for scatter plot in associated DataLab post on women in science/technology jobs. It is a subset of `recent-grads.csv`. (Small easter egg: Check out my related Shiny app: <https://bencasselman.shinyapps.io/new-test/>)

Headers for recent-grads.csv are shown below:

Header	Description
Rank	Rank by median earnings
Major_code	Major code, FO1DP in ACS PUMS
Major	Major description
Major_category	Category of major from Carnevale et al
Total	Total number of people with major
Sample_size	Sample size (unweighted) of full-time, year-round ONLY (used for earnings)
Men	Male graduates
Women	Female graduates
ShareWomen	Women as share of total
Employed	Number employed (ESR == 1 or 2)
Full_time	Employed 35 hours or more
Part_time	Employed less than 35 hours
Full_time_year_round	Employed at least 50 weeks (WKW == 1) and at least 35 hours (WKHP >= 35)
Unemployed	Number unemployed (ESR == 3)
Unemployment_rate	Unemployed / (Unemployed + Employed)
Median	Median earnings of full-time, year-round workers
P25th	25th percentile of earnings
P75th	75th percentile of earnings
College_jobs	Number with job requiring a college degree
Non_college_jobs	Number with job not requiring a college degree
Low_wage_jobs	Number in low-wage service jobs