

Math Double Majors at Hood

Distribution of Math Double Majors at Hood College (1973-2012)

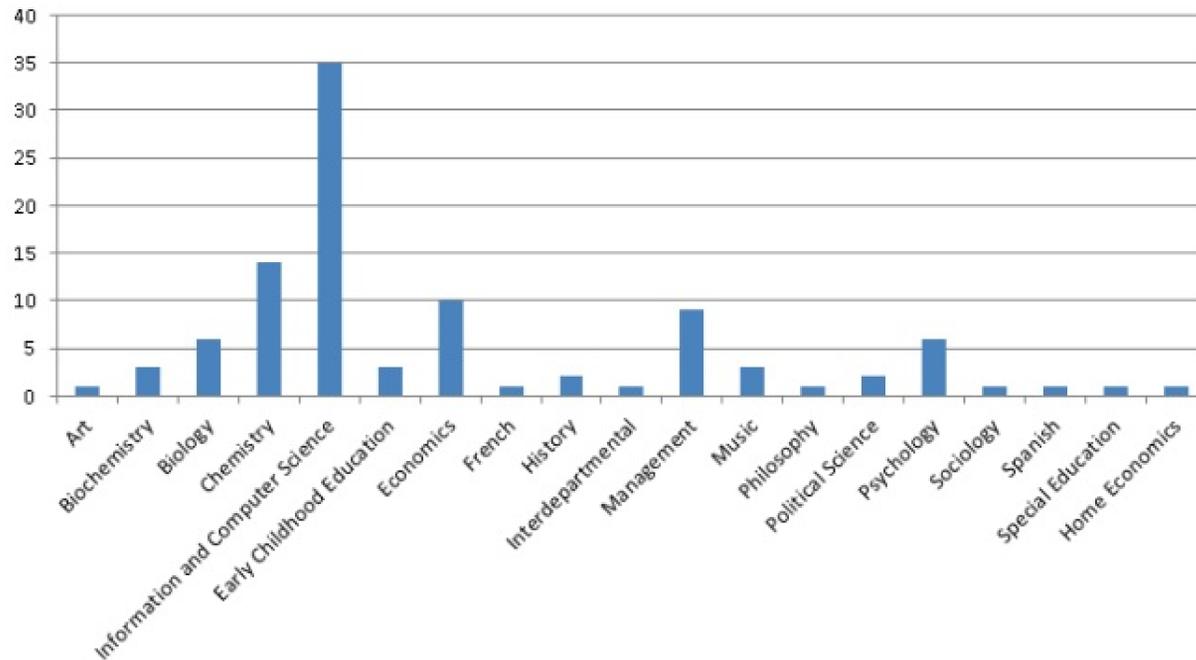


Figure : Math Double Majors at Hood

This is the distribution of double Math majors at Hood College from 1973-2012. As we can see from the graph, most Math majors (if they choose to double major) tend to pick Information and Computer Science, Chemistry, or Economics as their second major. Other popular second majors to pair with Math include Management, Biology, and Psychology.

What's their second major?

The Biglan Classification categorizes college majors into the groups: hard-pure disciplines (Biology, Chemistry, Math, Physics), soft-pure disciplines (Anthropology, Economics, Psychology, Literature), hard-applied (Agriculture, Engineering, Computer Science), and soft-applied (Architecture, Dance, Education, Music). Math students at Hood who chose to double major tended to choose their second major among the soft-pure disciplines and the hard-applied disciplines.

Distribution of Disciplines for Second Major

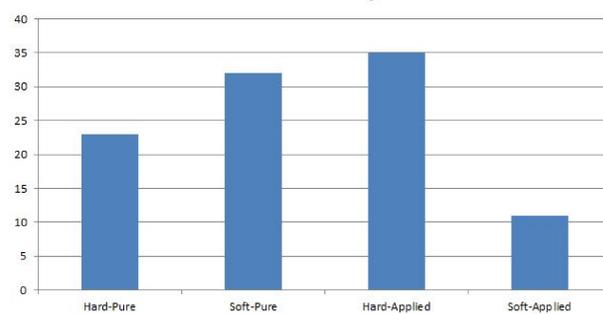


Figure : Based on Biglan's Classification of Disciplines

What's their earning?

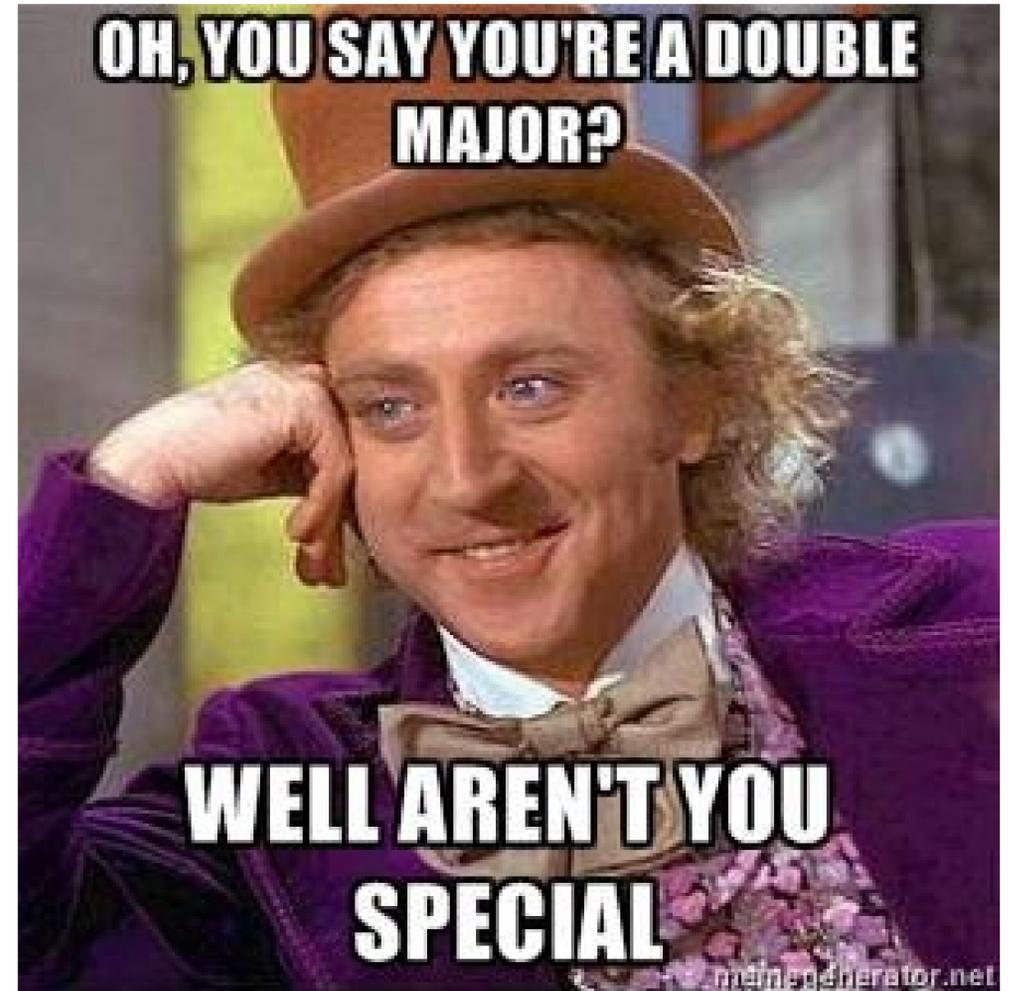
FIGURE 1 | AVERAGE SALARIES BY DISCIPLINE

| Broad Category | 2012 Average Salary | 2011 Average Salary | Percent Change |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Business | \$51,541 | \$50,446 | 2.2% |
| Communications | \$42,286 | \$41,367 | 2.2% |
| Computer Science | \$60,038 | \$59,234 | 1.4% |
| Education | \$39,080 | \$38,461 | 1.6% |
| Engineering | \$60,639 | \$59,496 | 1.9% |
| Health Sciences | \$46,567 | \$45,903 | 1.4% |
| Humanities & Social Sciences | \$36,824 | \$36,319 | 1.4% |
| Math & Sciences | \$42,355 | \$42,002 | 0.8% |
| Overall | \$44,259 | \$43,521 | 1.7% |

Figure : Average Salaries for College Majors

According to a study done by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), Math majors make (on average) \$43,000 per year. The overall average salary for graduates of the Math and Sciences field saw an increase of about 1.1% from 2010 to 2011. It appears that the STEM disciplines have seen a consistent increase in average salaries over the years.

Why Double Major?



The Benefits

- Gives students an "edge" over their single-majoring peers.
- Provides students with a more "enriching academic experience."
- Studies show that students who double major are "more apt than their single-majoring peers to think both integratively and creatively."
- "The more you know and the more qualified you are, the more job possibilities are available."

Conclusion

In general, Math majors make (on average) \$43,000 per year. According to 2010 study, in general, double majors on average earn 3.2 % more than those with single majors. Although not a significant amount, when the discipline of the second major is taken into account, we see a larger difference in earnings. The study determined that the addition of a technical major tends to "increase earnings premiums relative to only a single major." It is fair to conclude that the addition of another major (whether technical or not) with a Math major is very beneficial.

References

- ▣ Berrett, Dan. "Double Majors Produce Thinkers, Study Finds." *Chronicle of Higher Education*. 2 Apr. 2013 <http://chronicle.com/article/Double-Majors-Produce-Dynamic/137917/>
- ▣ Hemelt, Steven. Diss. "The college double major and subsequent earnings," University of Maryland Baltimore County, 2010.
- ▣ "Report of math double majors at Hood College from 1973-2012." In: Hood College Registrar.
- ▣ Hood Graduate Interviews via Facebook.
- ▣ Gomstyn, Alice. "Major Help or Major Harm?" *Chronicle of Higher Education* 2 Apr. 2013 <http://chronicle.com/article/Major-Help-or-Major-Harm-/16685/>
- ▣ Tepper, Steven. Diss. "Double Majors: Influences, Identities and Impacts," 2013. Available from <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/curbcenter/manage/files/Teagle-Report-Final-3-11-13-2.pdf>.

Acknowledgements

I would especially like to thank the Registrar for providing me with the records of Math double majors from 1973-2012. I would also like to thank the Hood graduates who were kind enough to answer my questions about their choice to double major with Math and how they have benefited from this choice.