High School Experience & College Major Choice  
By: Stefan Maletic

**Conceptual Model**

High School Experience in Subject Cluster ➔ College Major

**Hypothesis**
Positive experiences within high school subject clusters are associated with a greater likelihood of choosing a major within a similar subject cluster.

**Collection Methods/Data**
A 12 item survey administered to a random sample of Furman University students (N=95) via Qualtrics.

**Measures**

- **Independent Variable:** High school experience, measured by questions about teachers and grades in subject clusters
- **Dependent Variable:** College major choice, measured by a question asking about subject clusters
- **Controls:** Gender, household income, type of high school (public, magnet, charter, private)

**Results**

- **Distribution of Majors**
- **College Major and Highest Grades in High School**
- **College Major and Perceived Teacher Skill**

**Conclusions**
- Those who reported having the best high school teachers in a given subject cluster predominantly majored in the same cluster, as compared to majors in other clusters.
- Out of those surveyed, respondents with higher high school grades in a subject cluster chose a major in a similar subject cluster.
- In other words, in this sample, there is an observable, positive relationship between positive high school experiences in a subject cluster and choosing a major within the cluster.