

How do Undergraduate Students Choose Elective Courses?



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Introduction

This study uses survey data from business students to examine how they choose elective courses. In particular, this study aims at identifying the information sources that students use while selecting elective courses.

Data and Methodology

This study is based on survey of students taking economics courses at the School of Business and Economics. In total 244 students were surveyed. The study primarily uses descriptive statistics method. However, some regression analyses have been done using the Ordered Probit method.

ORDERED PROBIT MODEL

Table 1: Determinants of Source of Information

Variables	Friends	Rate My Professor.com	Calendar Description	Internet
Male	-.331 **	-.145	-.124	.163
Domestic	-.233	-.473 *	-.415 *	-.533 *
2 nd Year	.264	.094	-.183	-.488 **
3 rd Year	.141	-.155	-.466 **	-.596 *
4 th Year	.256	-.035	.100	-.411 **
Economics	-.583	.344	-.446	-.858 **
Finance	.309	.155	-.057	.134
HRM	.495	.108	-.553 **	-.337
Marketing	.876 *	.545 **	-.301	-.299
Science	.172	-.138	-.304	-.060
Other	.356	.419	.175	-.224

Results

- The ordered Probit Model shows that females are more likely than males to use friends as source of information. Compared to accounting majors (the base category), marketing majors are more likely to use friends as a source of information while selecting elective courses.
- International students are more likely than domestic students to use the RateMyProfessor.com website as a source of information. Similarly, marketing majors are more likely than accounting majors to use Rate My Professor.com as a source of information.
- Compared to domestic students, international students are more likely to utilize calendar description to select elective courses. Compared to the first-year students, third-year students are less likely to use the calendar description as a source of information.
- International students are more likely than domestic students to use internet as a source of information to select elective courses. Students from second year, third year and fourth year are less likely than students from first year to use internet as source of information.

Conclusion

Descriptive statistics demonstrate that friends and academic calendar appear to be the most important sources for selecting elective courses. The Ordered Probit model shows that females are more likely than males to use friends as source of information. International students are more likely than domestic students to use academic calendar as source of information to select elective courses. International students are more likely than domestic students to utilize RateMyProfessor.com website as a source of information. Finally, the first-year students are more likely than other students to use internet as a source of information.

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