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Physics vs Engineering: How do Students Choose?

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Students who excel in mathematics and physics in high school often consider engineering or physics for university-level studies. But how do they make their choice? How can the education system better advise them to choose the career that is best for each one of them individually? We present results from a survey on how first-year university students choose between the physical sciences and engineering, and examine aspects of how recent high-school students understand the differences and similarities between science and engineering, and how their understanding factors into their choice of university study. Results from our survey may inform outreach and pedagogy for science and engineering, and thus foster greater attraction and retention of undergraduate students in STEM fields, and greater career sustainability and life satisfaction for our graduates.

Keyword-1

physical sciences

Keyword-2

engineering

Keyword-3

retention

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