GSA Stipend & Cost-of-Living Report

Appendix A. Full Stipend Report

Alex Barth, Secretary of Data Management

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General Information

Stipend data were self reported in the GSA survey. Full data processing information are available in the Data Processing Report. It should be noted that because these values are self-reported the data are not without question. Several responses did not provide usable information and were removed from this analysis. However, the purpose of this information is to understand the distribution of stipends provided by different programs and how they compare to other universities. Thus, we did not prioritize individual responses but rather getting information across multiple programs. In total, we received 324 usable responses from 63 different programs in 11 Colleges across the university.

USC Reported Stipends

Distribution of reported stipends in the survey

Individual survey responses for the stipend value are shown below. It should be noted that stipends are not distinguished between 9-month and 12-month salaries.

Distribution of average reported stipend

To understand the average stipend given by departments/colleges at the university, individual responses within programs were averaged. The university wide average stipend was $15,047.22. The 50% high density interval of programs paid between $12,915.38 and $20,000.00.

The table below provides the average reported value for all stipends by department

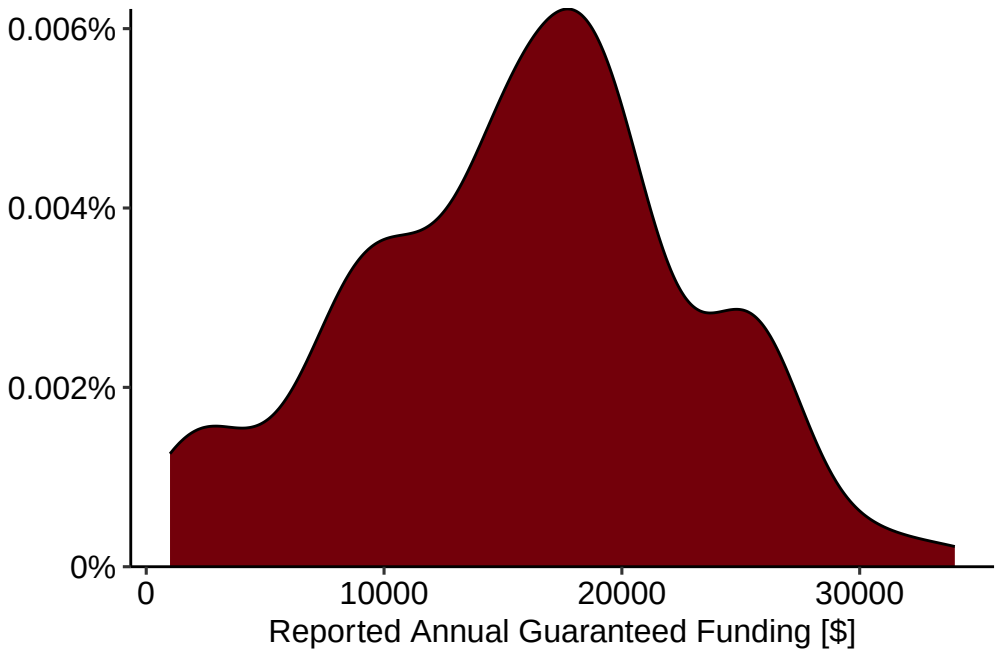


Figure 1: Distribution of annual guaranteed stipends for all survey respondants.

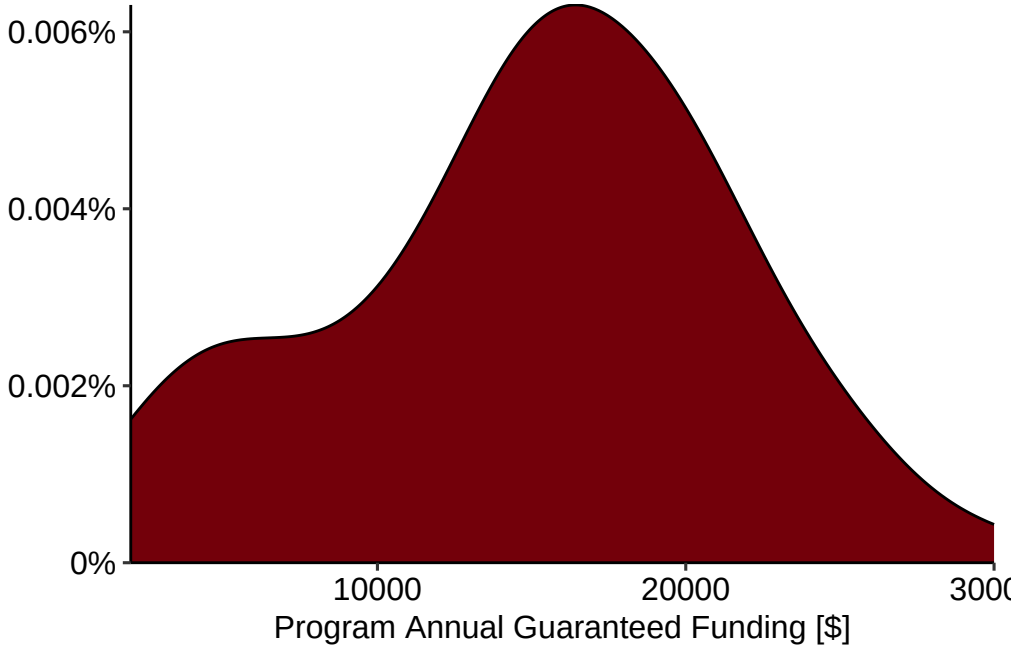


Figure 2: Average stipend by program.

Program	College	Mean Stipend	Standard Dev
Accountancy	Business	2000.000	
Aerospace Engineering	Engineering and Computing	30000.000	0.0000
Anthropology	Arts and Sciences	11037.500	6619.8408
Art Education	Arts and Sciences	10000.000	
Art Education	Education	10000.000	
Art History	Arts and Sciences	3000.000	
Athletic Training	Public Health	22000.000	
Athletic Training, Advanced	Public Health	8000.000	
Biological Sciences	Arts and Sciences	25321.875	2712.5000
Biomedical Engineering	Engineering and Computing	13625.000	5580.3786
Biomedical Science	Medicine	21666.667	2081.6660
Biostatistics	Public Health	10766.667	5494.9674
Business Administration	Business	20333.333	288.6751
Business Analytics	Business	4200.000	0.0000
Chemical Engineering	Engineering and Computing	21583.333	9746.0590
Chemistry	Arts and Sciences	24285.714	4631.4738
Comparative Literature	Arts and Sciences	14666.667	577.3503
Computer Engineering	Engineering and Computing	20500.000	
Computer Science	Engineering and Computing	17143.750	5130.0382
Counselor Education	Education	20000.000	
Creative Writing	Arts and Sciences	10000.000	
Criminology and Criminal Justice	Arts and Sciences	18285.714	755.9289
Economics	Business	18840.000	9302.0428
Educational Psychology and Research	Education	15000.000	
Electrical Engineering	Engineering and Computing	25533.333	1858.3146
English	Arts and Sciences	12915.385	2460.9775
Environmental Health Sciences	Public Health	15700.000	6016.6436
Epidemiology	Public Health	13971.429	3672.2901
Exercise Science	Public Health	19842.857	6760.6354
Genetic Counseling	Medicine	2500.000	2179.4495
Geography	Arts and Sciences	12937.500	1450.0616
Geological Sciences	Arts and Sciences	25250.000	
Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior	Public Health	17200.000	7703.3459
Health Services Policy and Management	Public Health	20000.000	
Higher Education and Student Affairs	Education	10392.857	3677.7845

Program	College	Mean Stipend	Standard Dev
History	Arts and Sciences	15644.000	2004.3528
Hospitality Management	Hospitality Retail and Sport Management	21000.000	0.0000
International Business	Business	5100.000	4182.8220
Journalism and Mass Communications	Information and Communications	15000.000	5196.1524
Languages, Literatures, and Cultures	Arts and Sciences	13500.000	
Learning Design and Technologies	Education	24000.000	
Library and Information Science	Information and Communications	4808.333	3312.5079
Linguistics	Arts and Sciences	15511.111	1449.5210
Marine Science	Arts and Sciences	16639.286	5630.3097
Mathematics	Arts and Sciences	18531.250	3556.7780
Mechanical Engineering	Engineering and Computing	14850.000	8643.7426
Media Arts	Arts and Sciences	16000.000	
Music	Music	6033.333	2589.0796
Music Education	Music	7688.000	1035.7098
Music Performance	Music	6500.000	707.1068
Nursing Science	Nursing	3100.000	141.4214
Philosophy	Arts and Sciences	21000.000	
Physical Education	Education	13125.000	5603.1985
Physics	Arts and Sciences	17570.000	5171.9919
Political Science	Arts and Sciences	15612.500	1499.2260
Psychology	Arts and Sciences	19007.846	4974.8406
Public History	Arts and Sciences	14333.333	2081.6660
SEOE	Arts and Sciences	18375.000	3292.9850
Social Work	Social Work	5850.000	6591.4338
Sociology	Arts and Sciences	17000.000	4242.6407
Special Education	Education	20000.000	
Sport and Entertainment Management	Hospitality Retail and Sport Management	15625.000	9428.4587
Statistics	Arts and Sciences	16571.429	3359.4217
Theatre	Arts and Sciences	11500.000	577.3503
Theatre	Education	11500.000	707.1068

Average stipend by program.

Stipends by College

College	mean	sd
Arts and Sciences	15942.158	4950.3016
Business	10094.667	8753.9787
Education	15502.232	5223.2105
Engineering and Computing	20462.202	5876.5153
Hospitality Retail and Sport Management	18312.500	3800.6989
Information and Communications	9904.167	7206.5966
Medicine	12083.333	13552.8800
Music	6740.444	853.1357
Nursing	3100.000	
Public Health	15935.119	4836.8637
Social Work	5850.000	

Average stipend by college.

Stipends by Program Type

program_type	mean	sd
Engineering	20462.202	5876.515
Humanities	13559.779	4766.477
Natural Science	18628.645	4444.617
Professional	7898.148	7191.577
Social Science	16098.987	5827.629

Average stipend by program type.

What percentage of students are recieving additional funding?

Students were asked to disclose any additional funding they received outside their departmental contracts. While approximately 18.8% of respondents indicated that they were receiving additional funding, it was clear that some respondents reported smaller, one-time grants, which are not indicative of their overall financial situation.

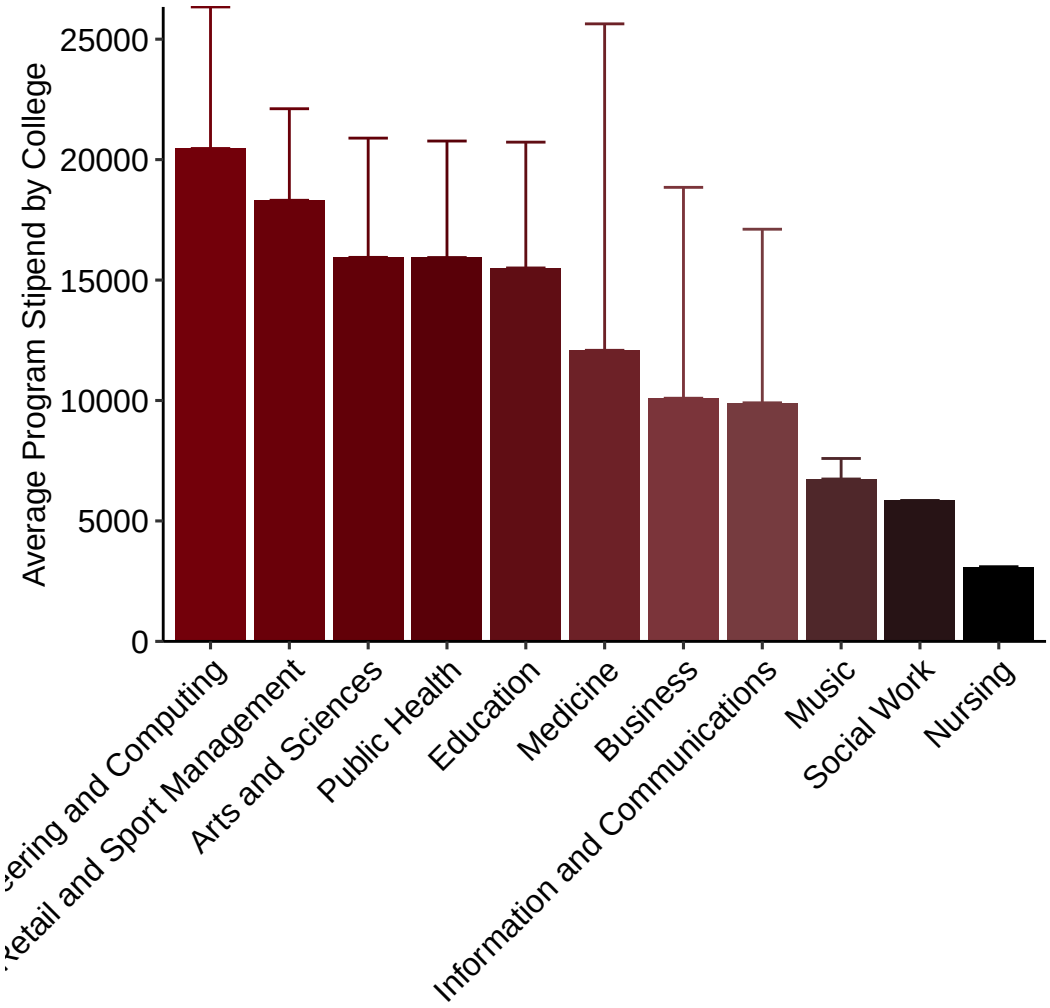


Figure 3: Average stipend by college.

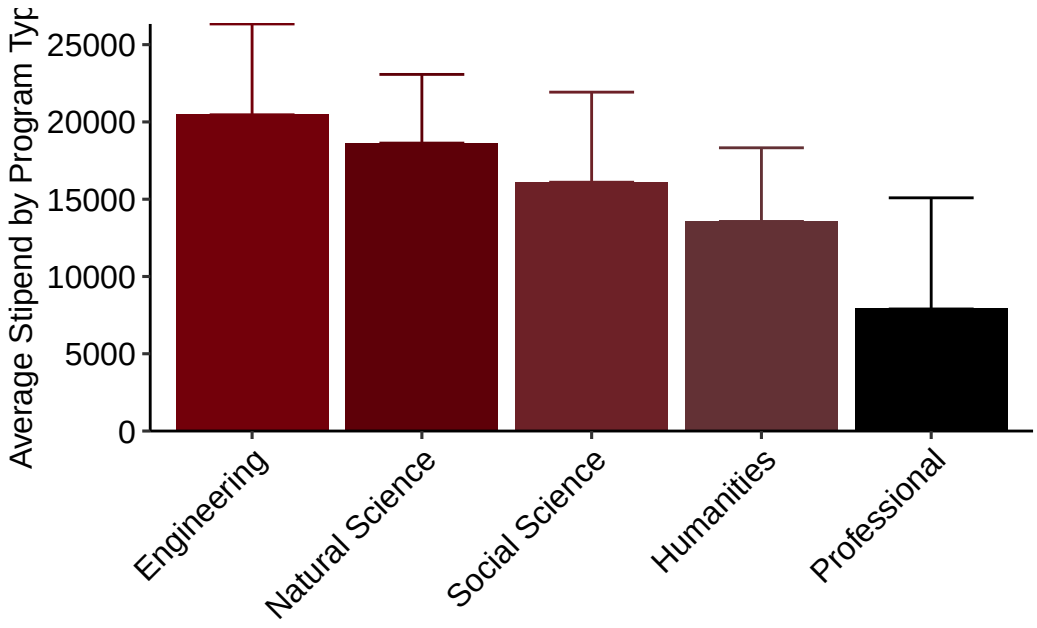


Figure 4: Average stipend by program type.

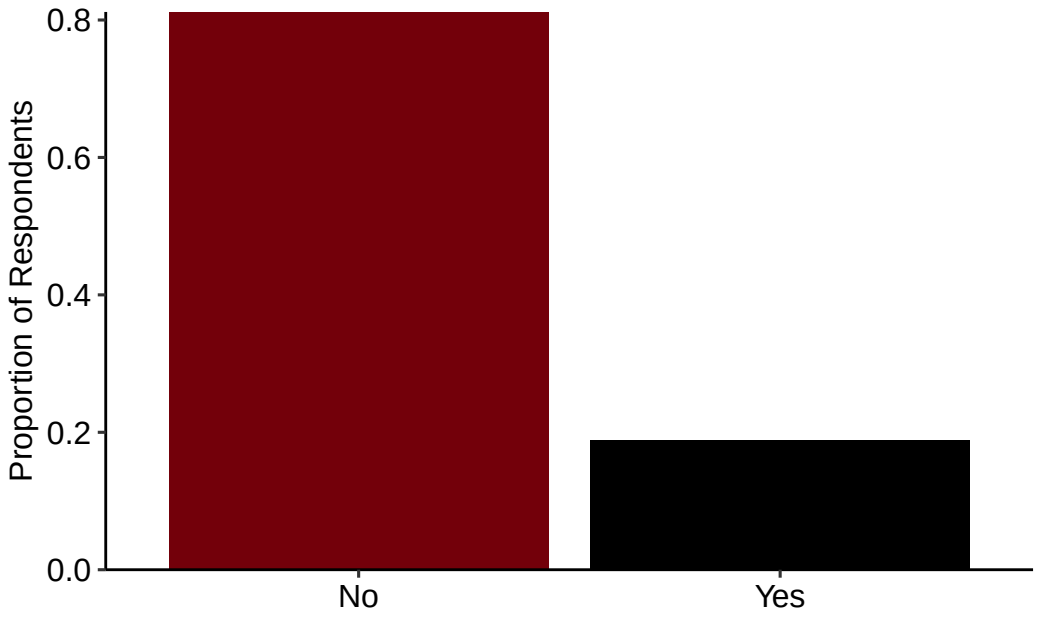


Figure 5: Proportion of students who responded they were receiving additional funding.

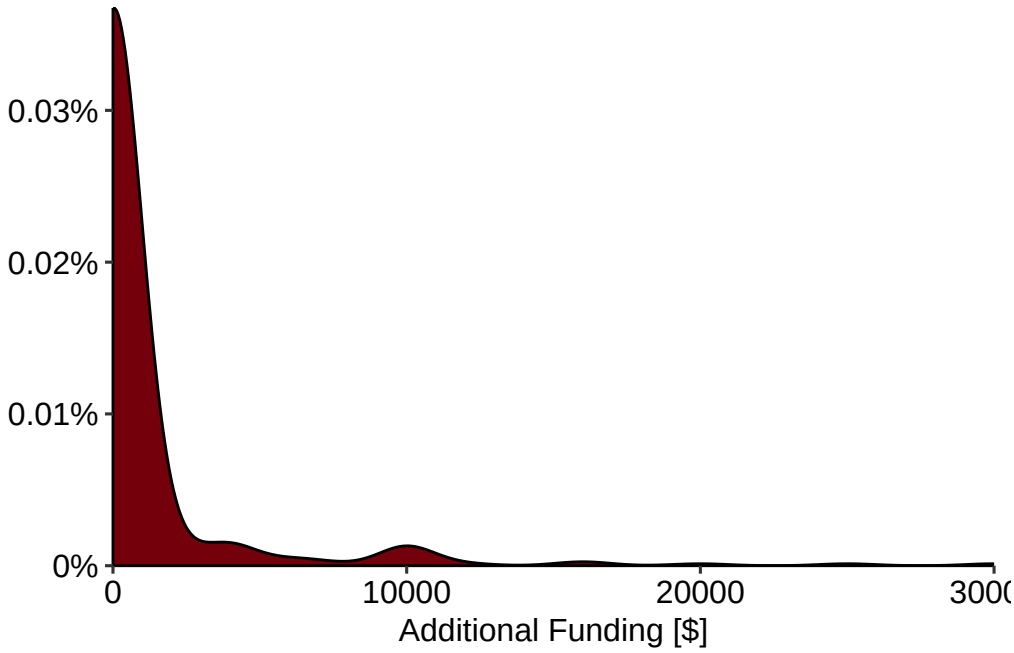


Figure 6: Distribution of additional funding amount.

How much additional funding?

Market Analysis

National-Program Comparison

To compare USC graduate student stipends to other universities, data were collected from a publicly available repository of phd stipends (link). These data required similar processing to our stipend and details can be found in Appendix C. It should be noted that this comparison source does not encourage responses from professional students who are not working full time as graduate assistants but rather supplementing their income while completing a professional degree. While that discrepancy can explain some of the lower-end data point USC has, it is not a full explanation as there are a few programs which do pay below the poverty line. To get a better view of specific groups, look to the college/program type comparison charts or the data exploration widget.

Cost of living variation between university locations was taken into account by using metro area's living wage for a single individual based on MIT's Cost of Living Calculator. Poverty levels were also accessed from the same source. In all sub-group comparisons shown below, a black line also indicates a linear regression of competitor universities.

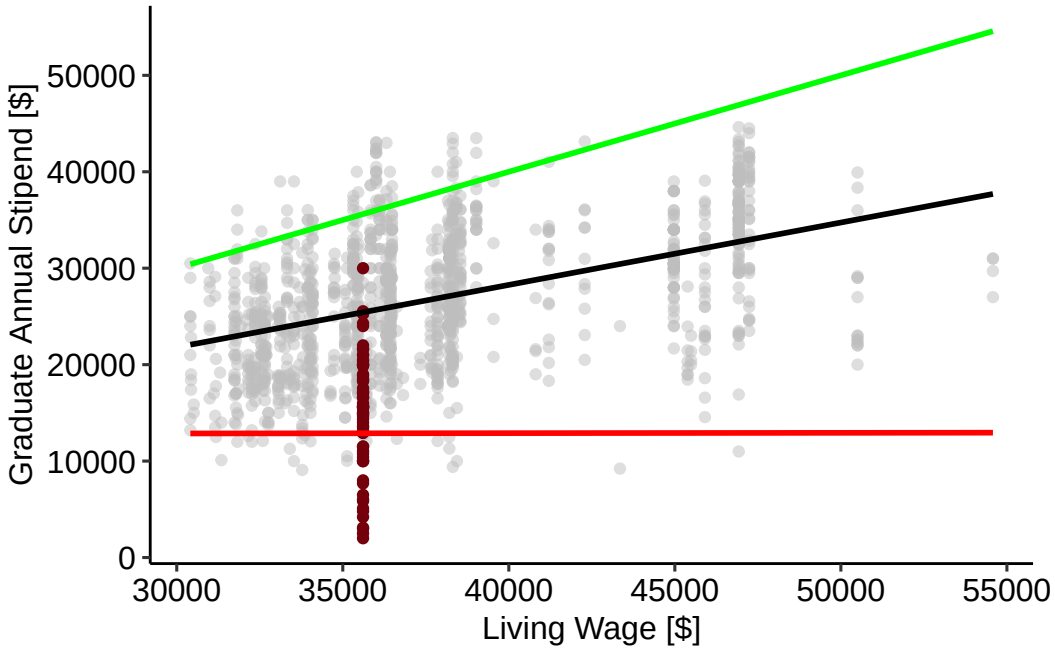


Figure 7: Market Analysis of USC annual stipend compared to other national universities. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

Competitor Specific Comparison

Local and SEC comparison universities were also selected for direct comparison.

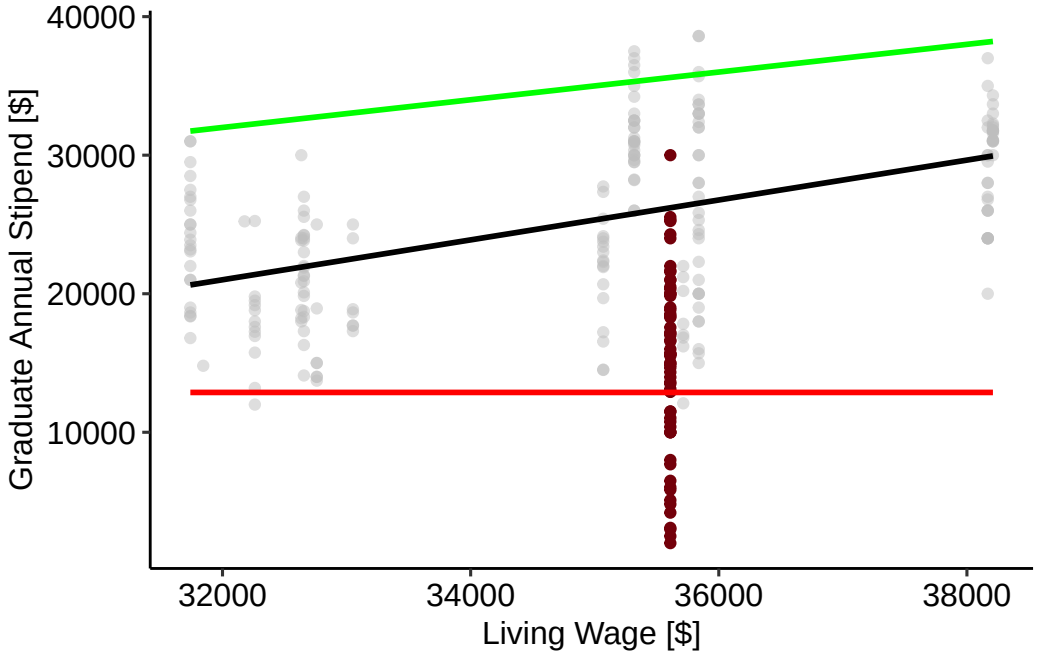


Figure 8: Market Comparison for other SEC or nearby universities. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

Comparison by College

Comparison by Program Type

How do stipends vary by university ranking?

To assess how graduate student pay correlates with university prestige, stipends were visualized by a University's US News Ranking.

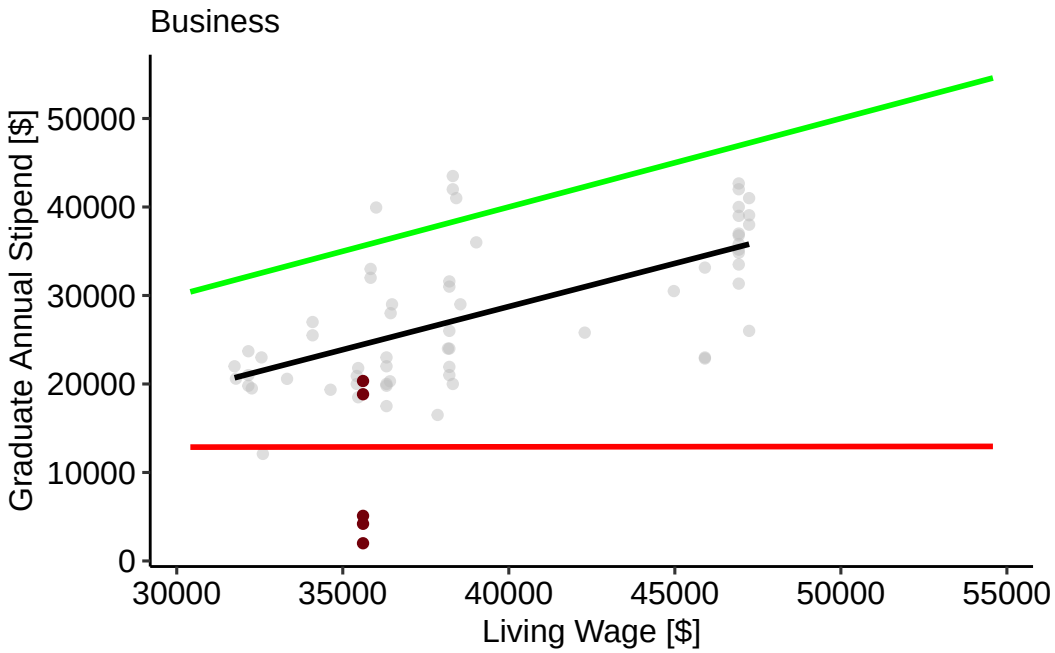


Figure 9: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

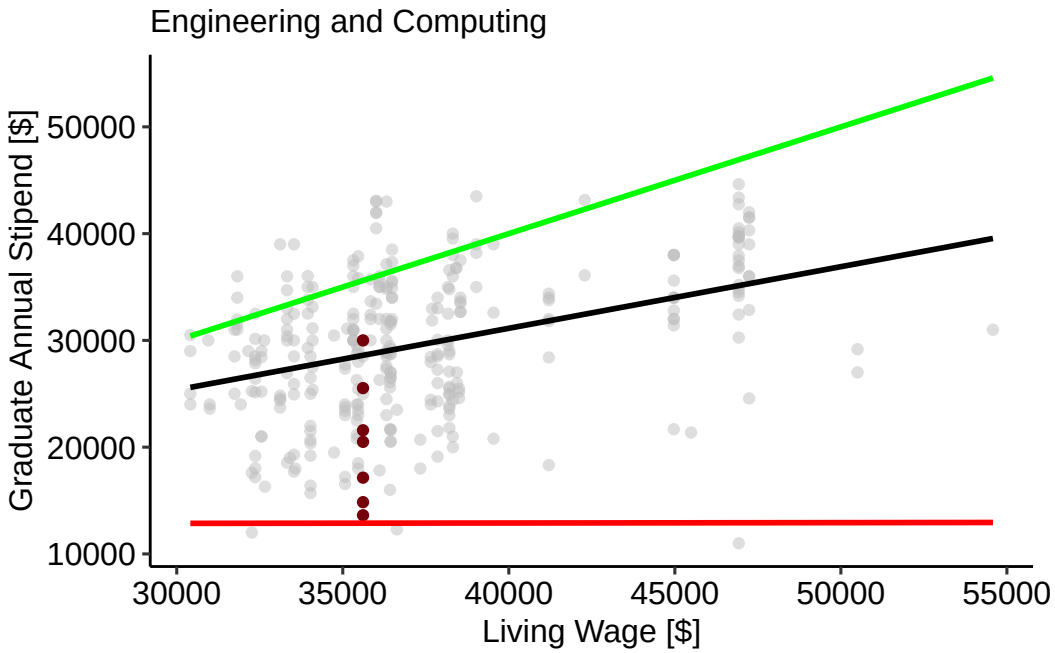


Figure 10: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

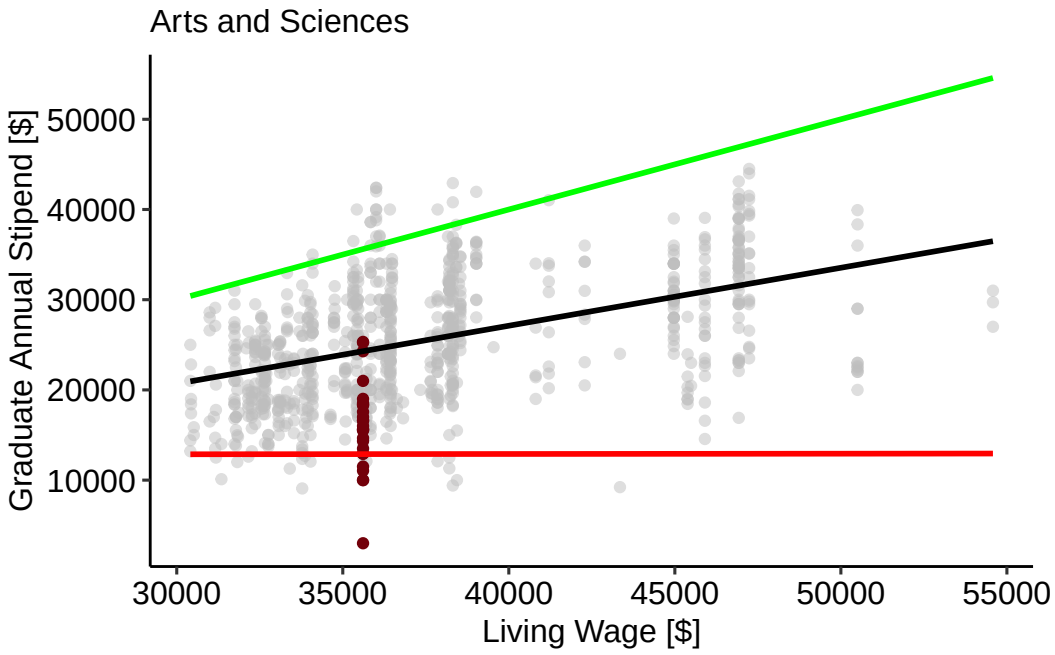


Figure 11: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

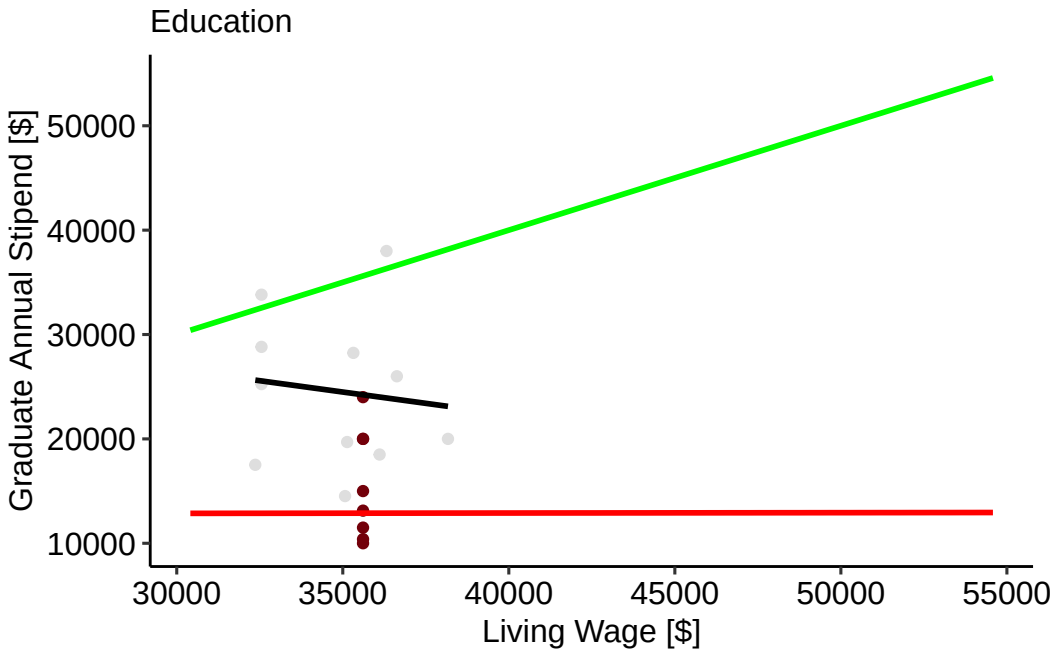


Figure 12: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

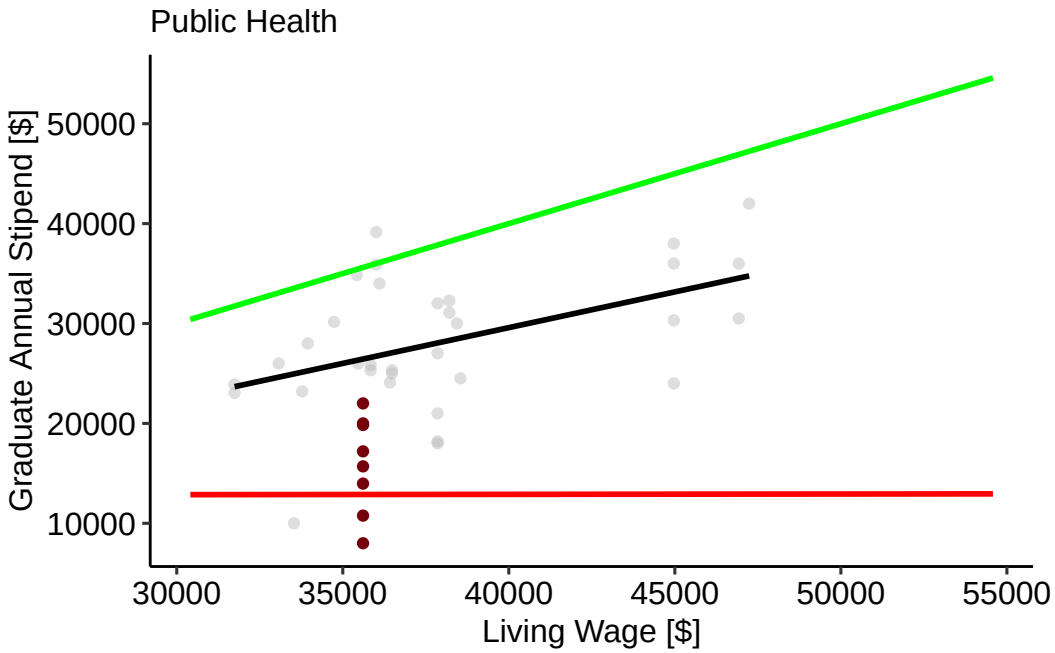


Figure 13: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

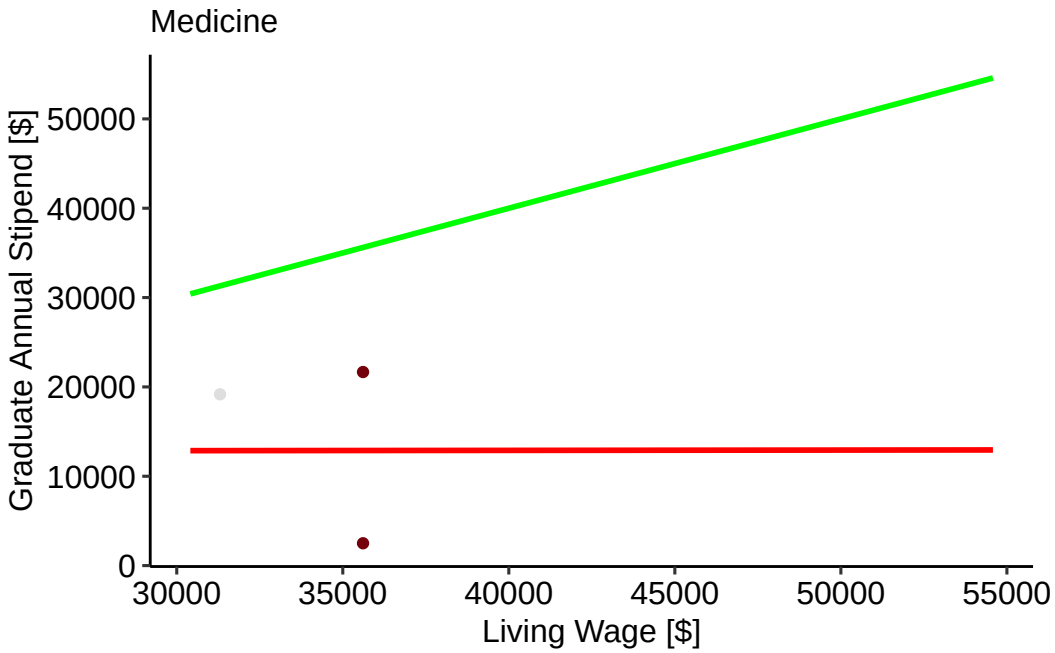


Figure 14: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

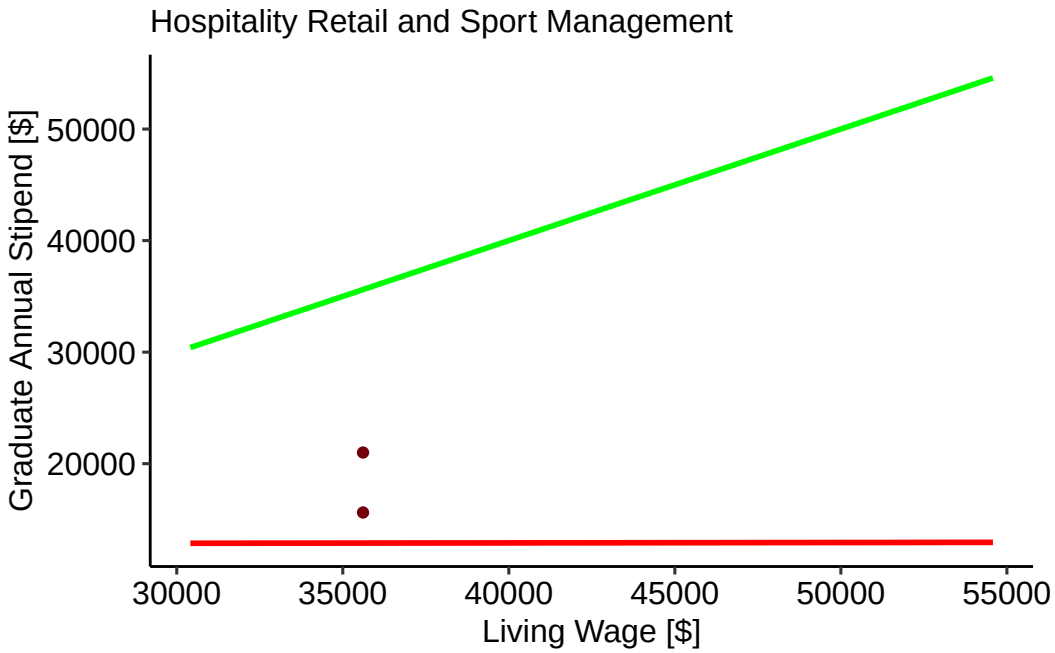


Figure 15: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

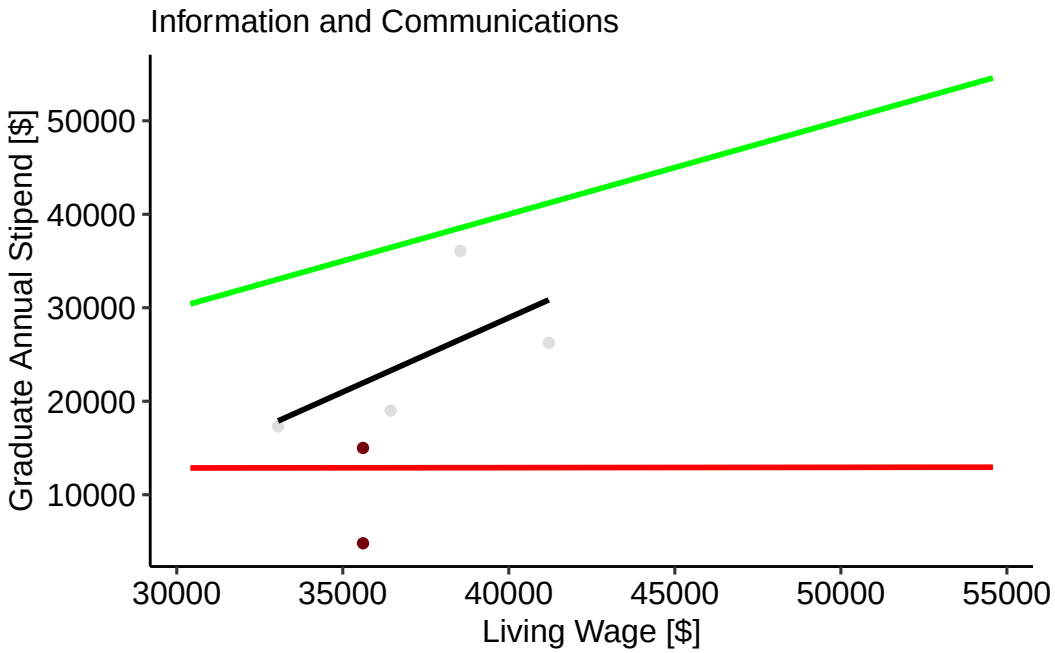


Figure 16: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

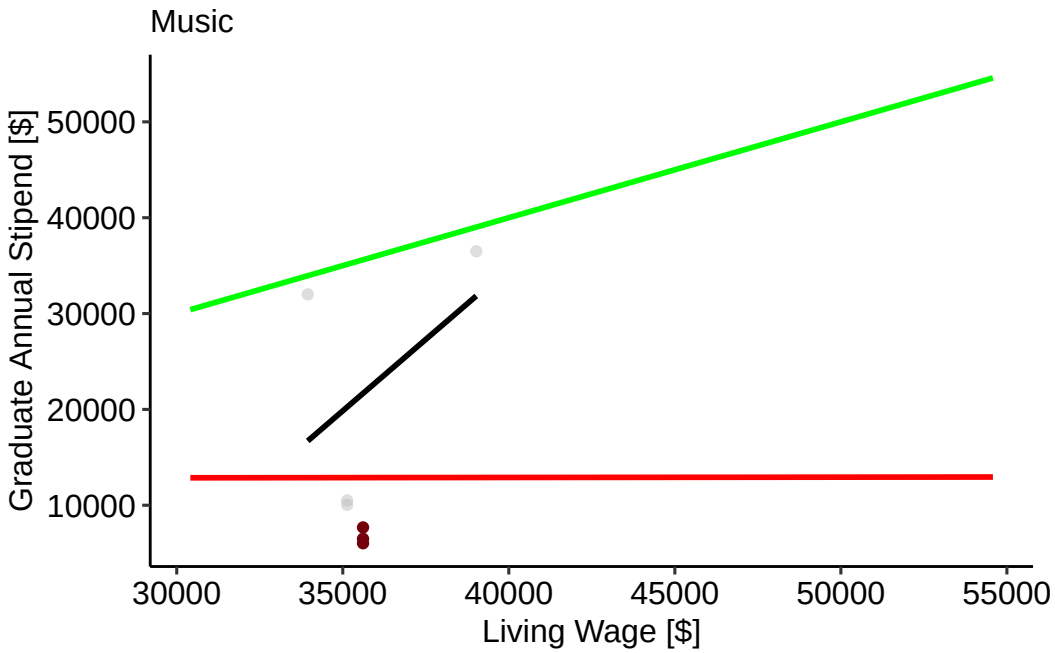


Figure 17: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

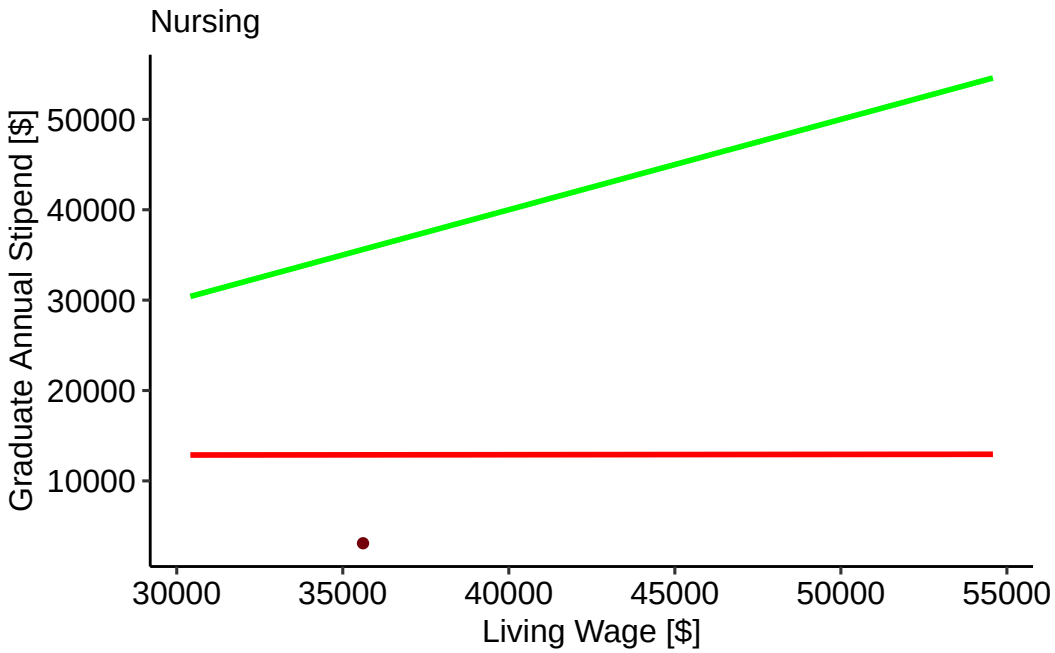


Figure 18: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

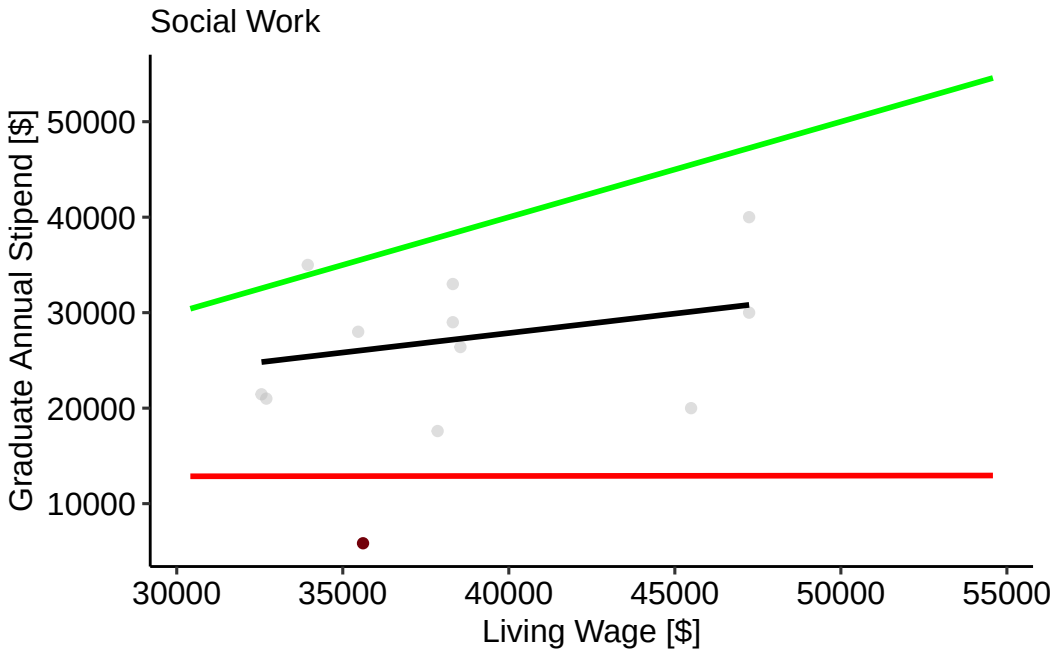


Figure 19: Market analysis comparisons for sub-groups separated by college. Comparison universities were assigned to the college that they would have been in, if at USC. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

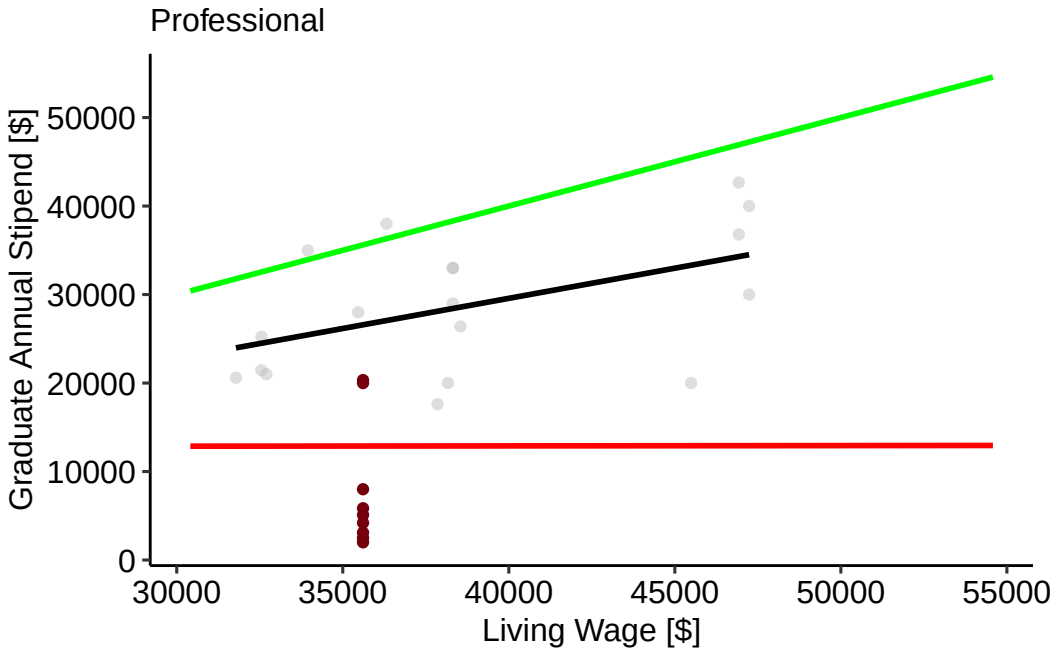


Figure 20: Market analysis for comparison universities based on program type. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

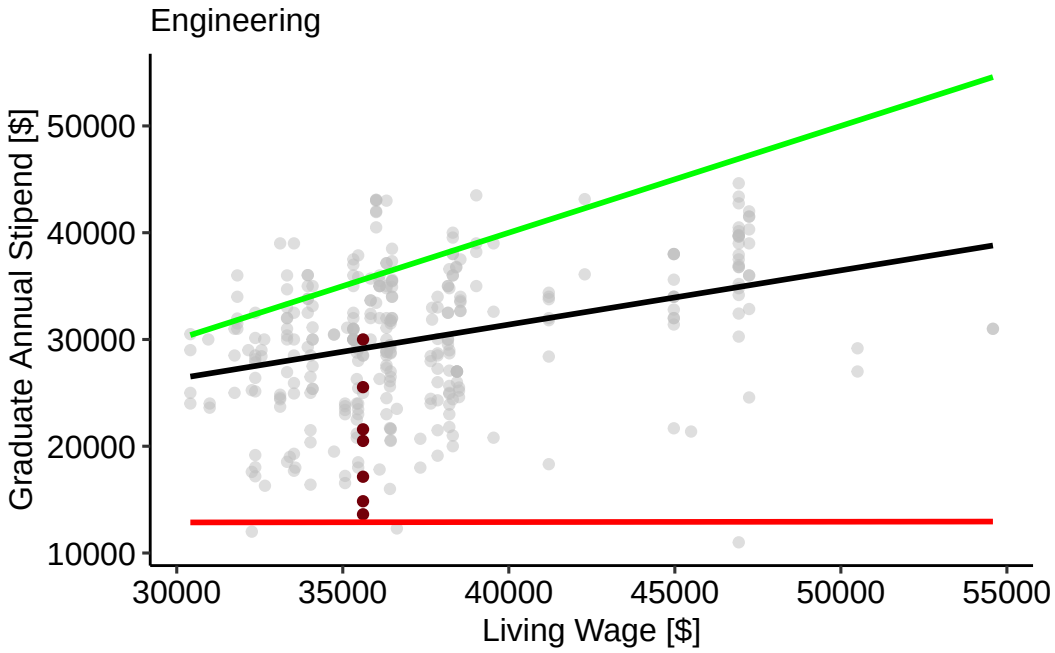


Figure 21: Market analysis for comparison universities based on program type. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

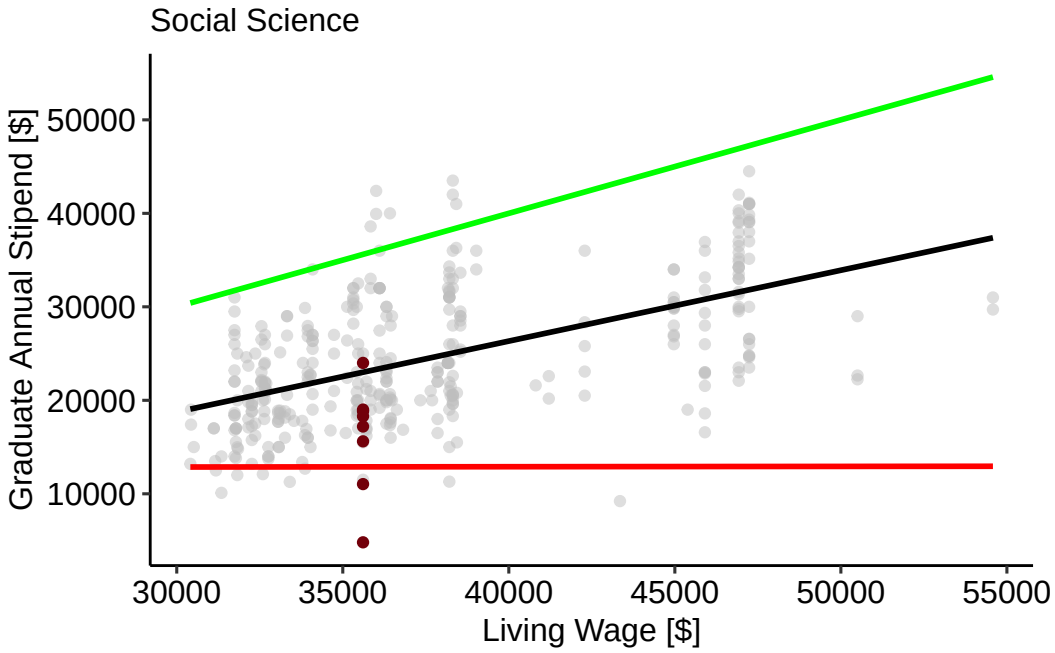


Figure 22: Market analysis for comparison universities based on program type. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

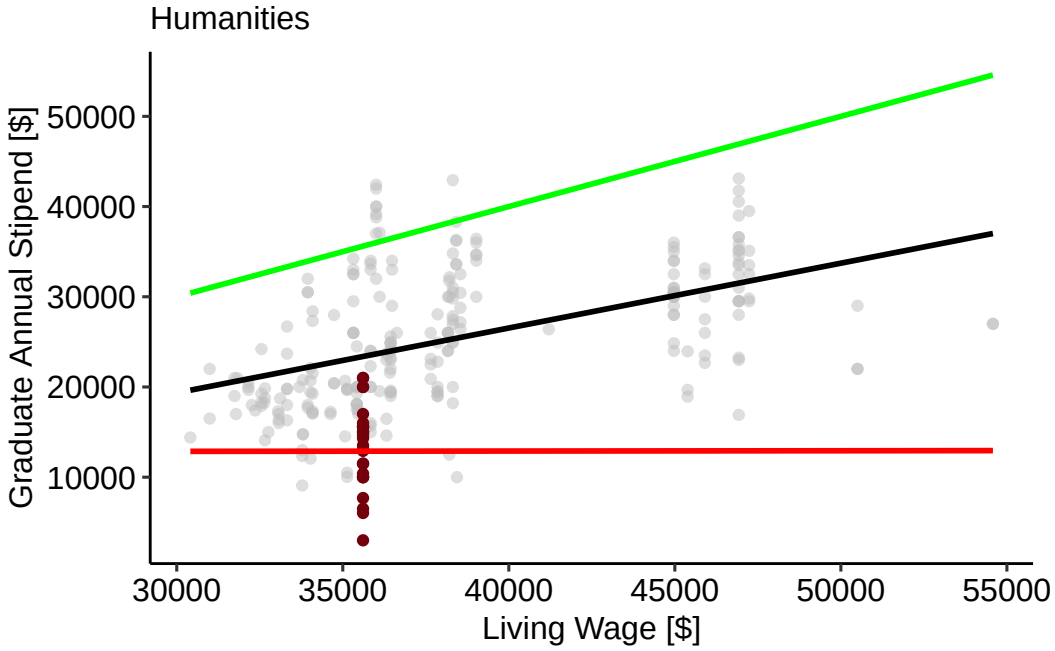


Figure 23: Market analysis for comparison universities based on program type. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

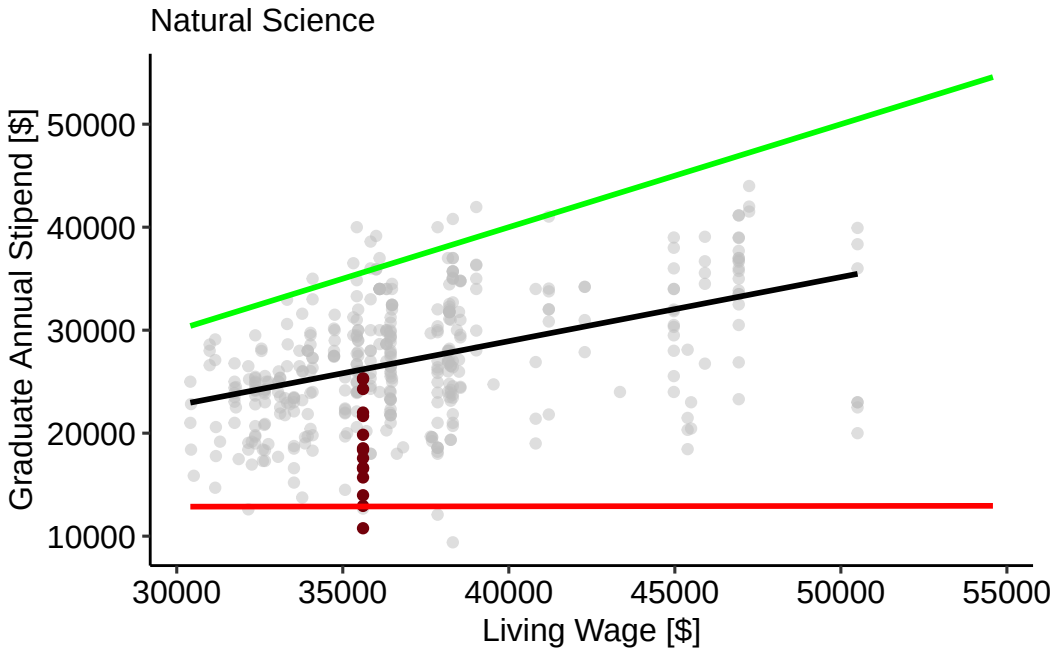


Figure 24: Market analysis for comparison universities based on program type. Green line indicates MIT living wage for a single individual, red line indicates the poverty level, black line is the regression of competitor universities.

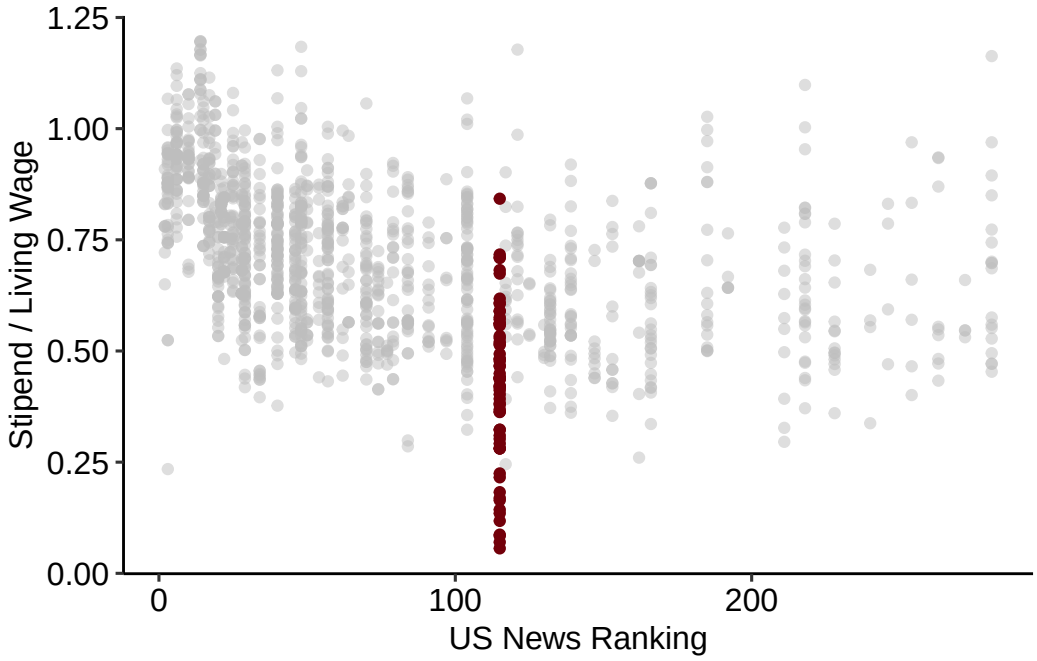
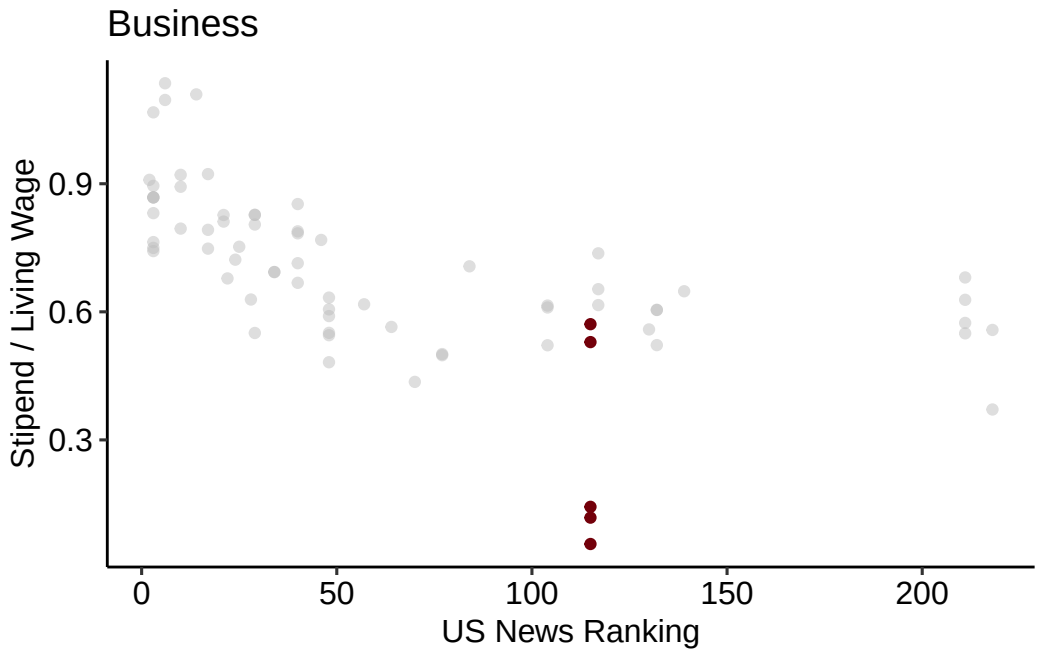
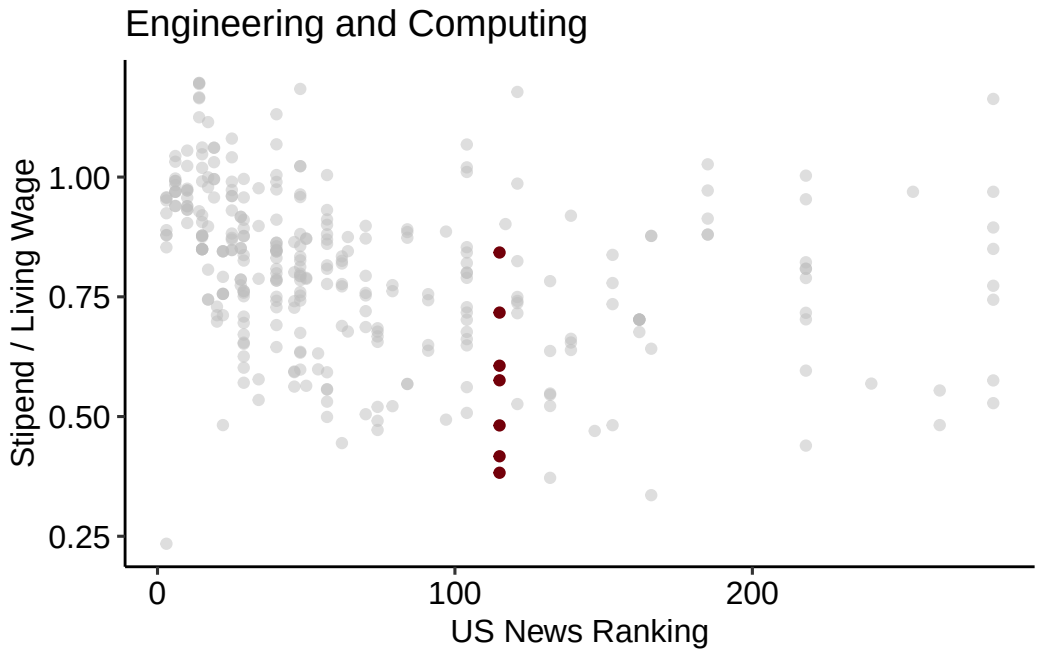
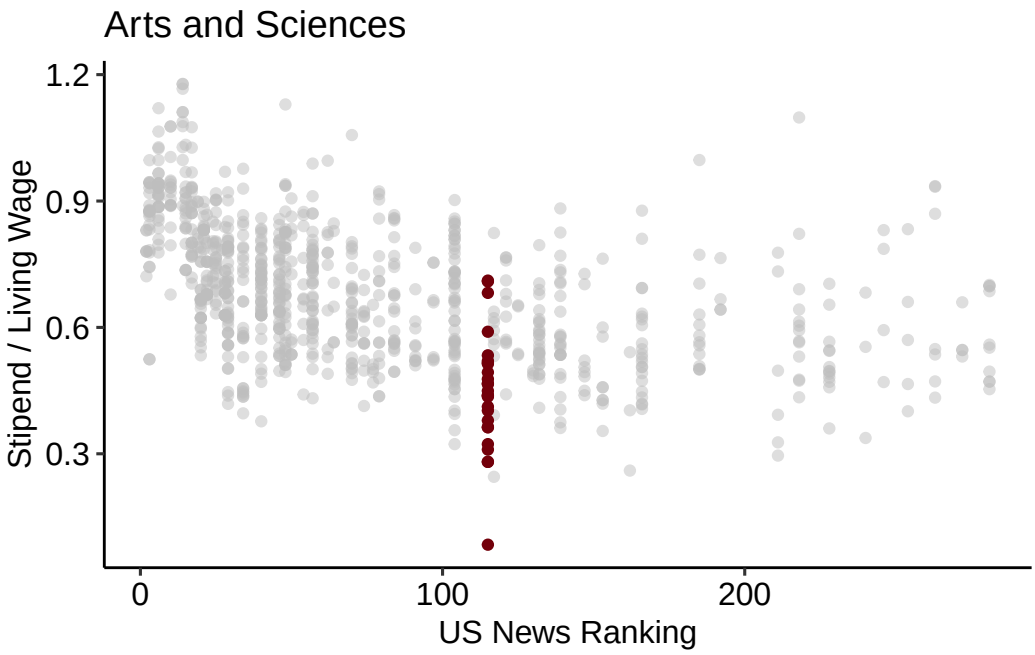


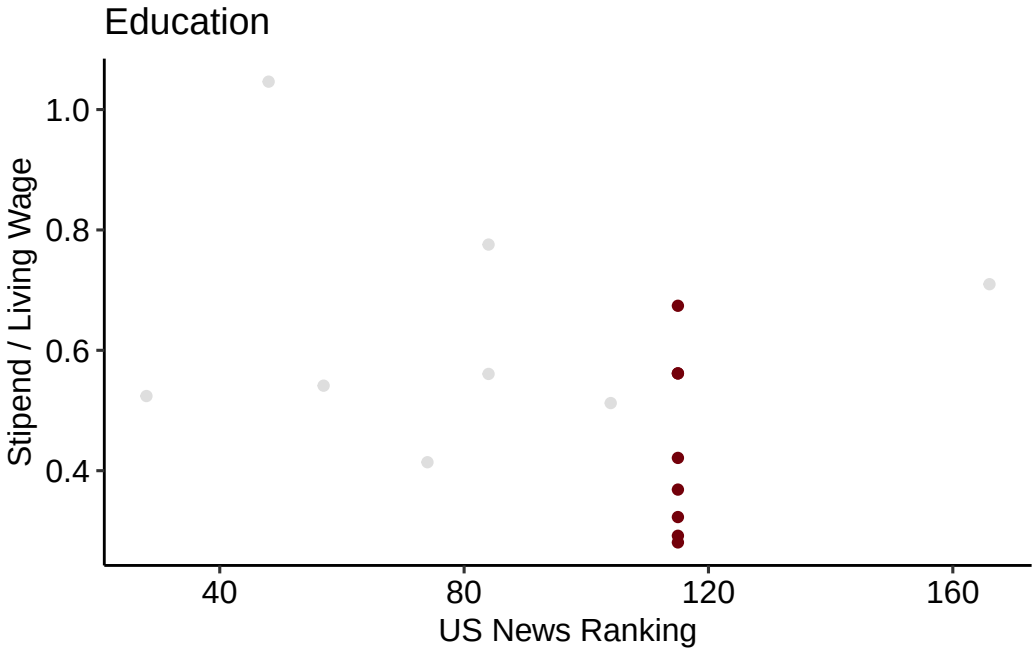
Figure 25: Graduate stipend shown by US News Ranking. Garnet points indicate USC while grey indicates other universities

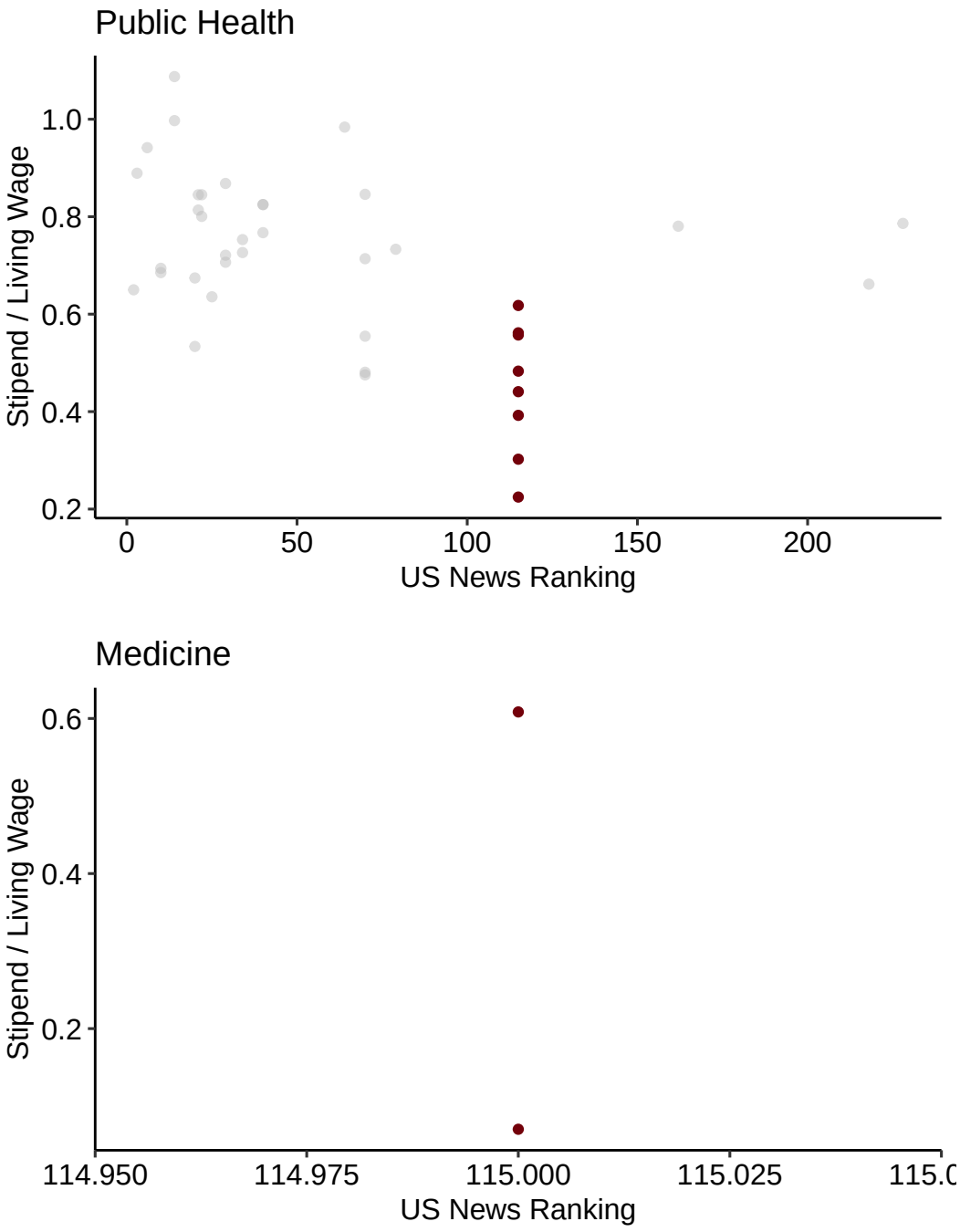
Graduate Pay Ratio by College and Program Type

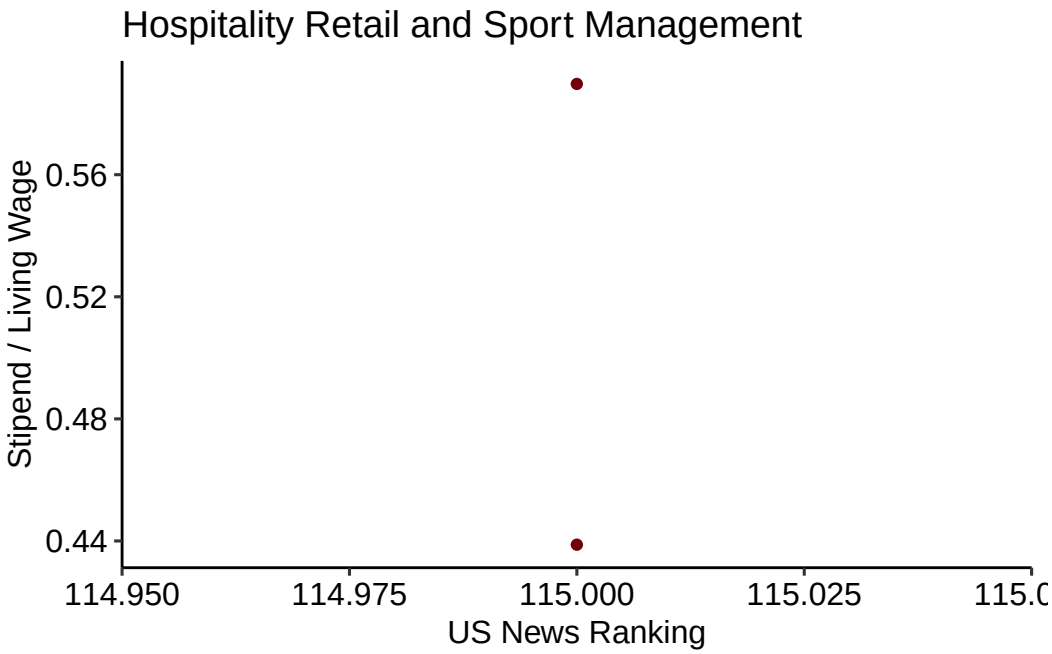


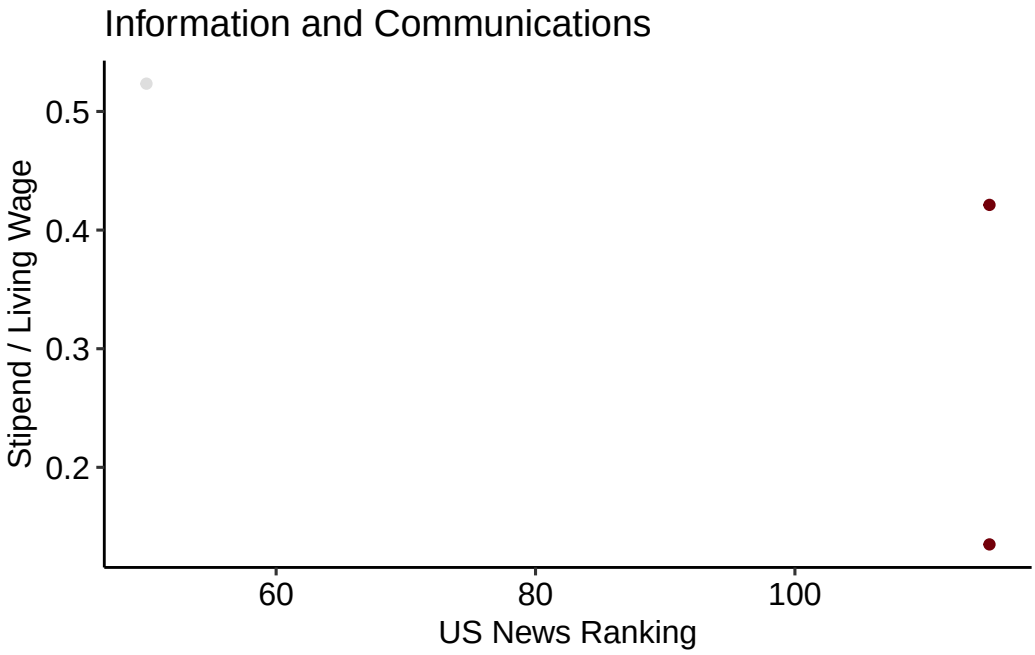


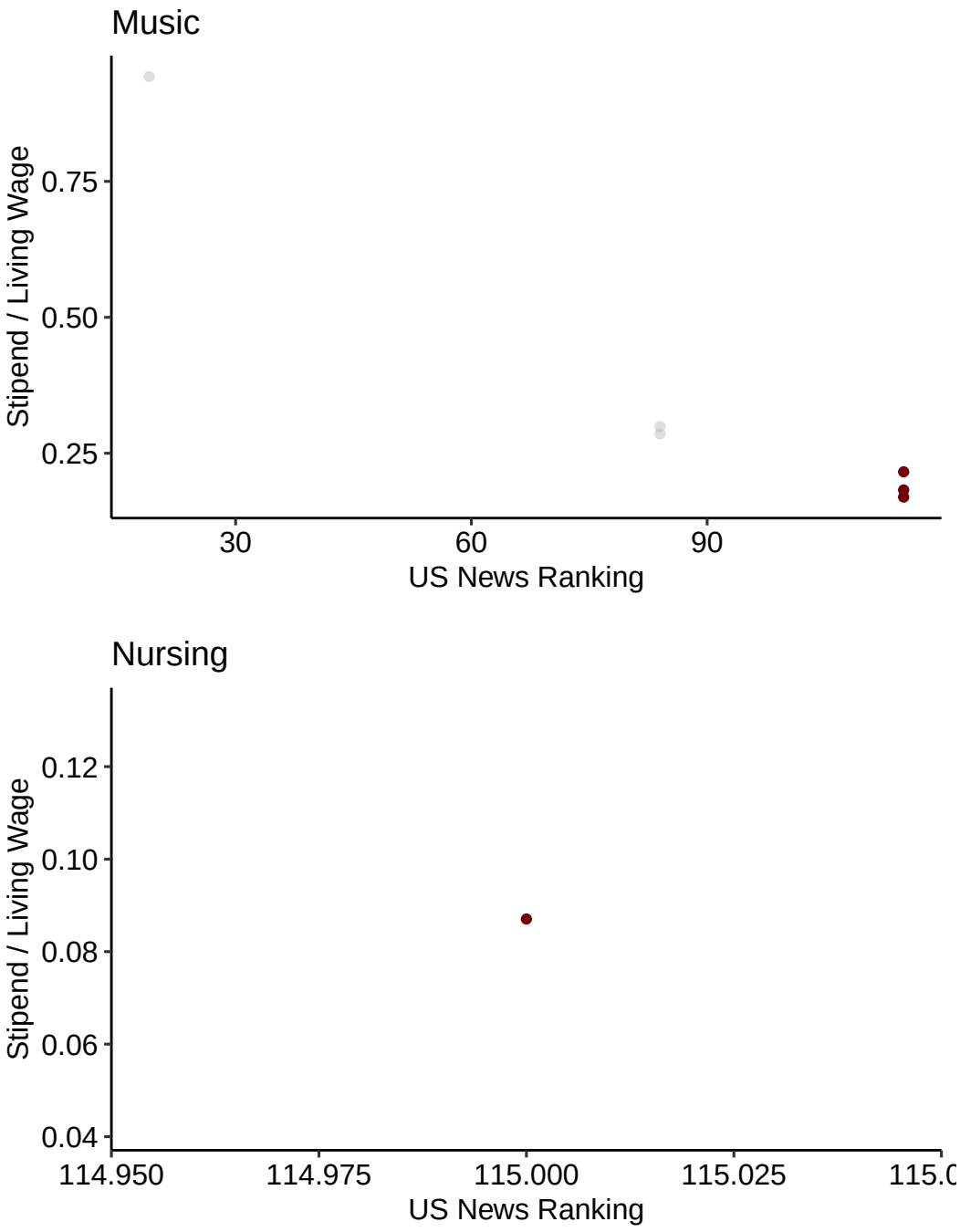

Arts and Sciences
Stipend / Living Wage
1.2
0.9
0.6
0.3
0
100
200
US News Ranking

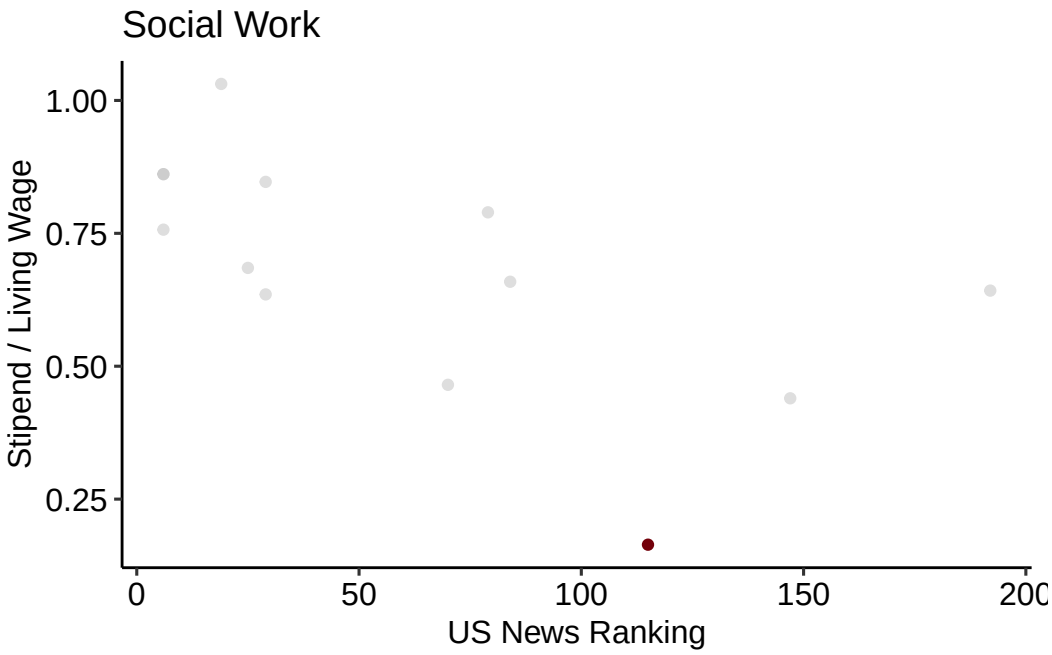

Education
Stipend / Living Wage
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
40
80
120
160
US News Ranking

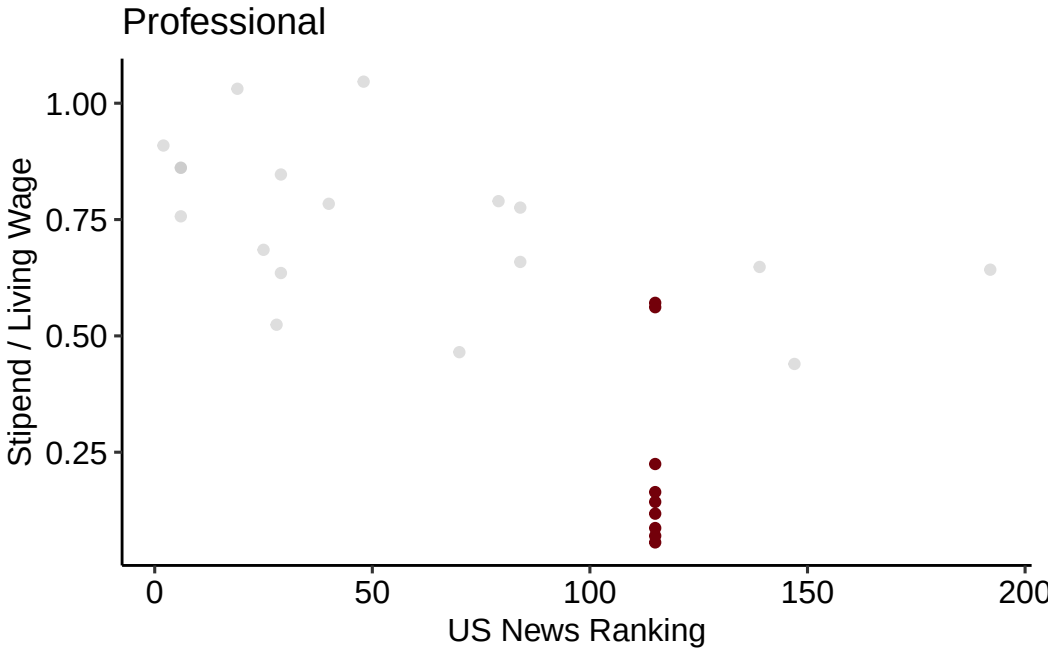

Public Health
Stipend / Living Wage
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
50
100
150
200
US News Ranking
Medicine
Stipend / Living Wage
0.6
0.4
0.2
114.950
114.975
115.000
115.025
US News Ranking

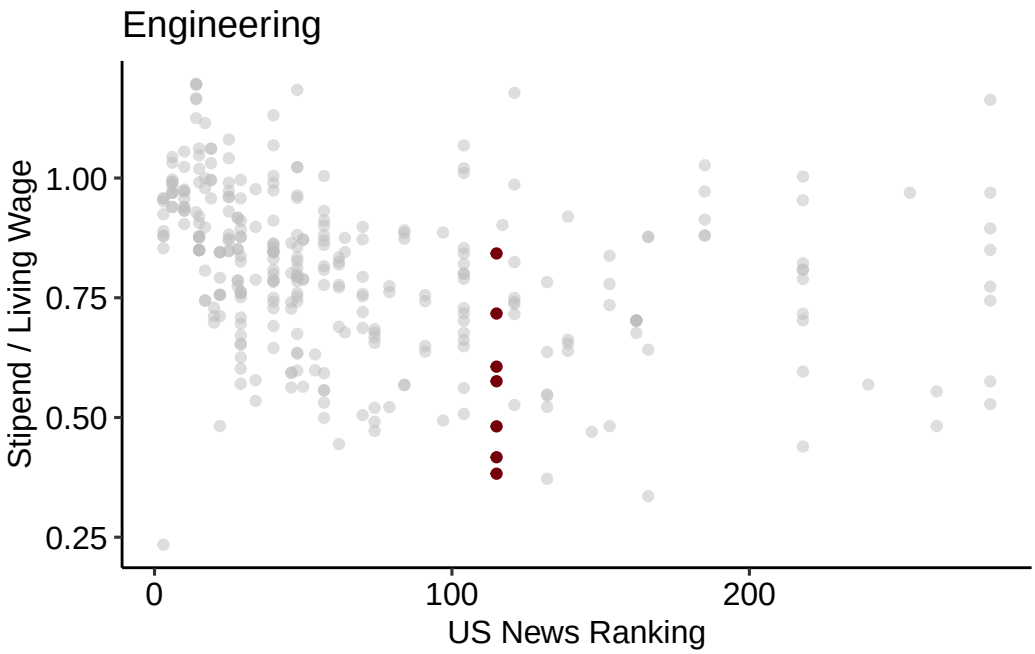

Hospitality Retail and Sport Management
Stipend / Living Wage
0.56
0.52
0.48
0.44
114.950
114.975
115.000
115.025
US News Ranking

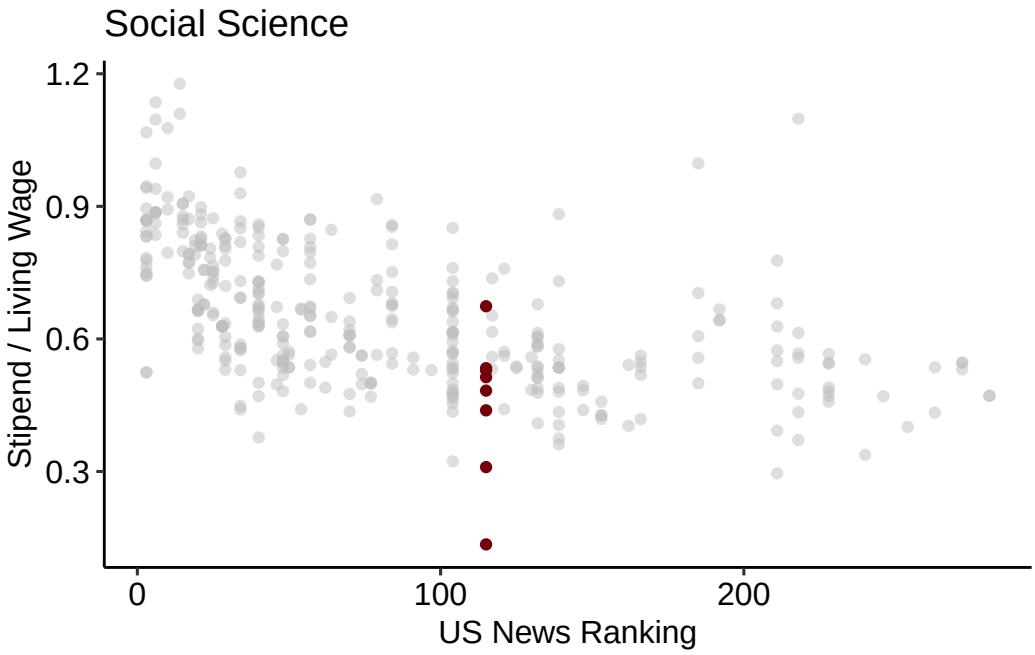

Information and Communications
Stipend / Living Wage
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
60
80
100
US News Ranking

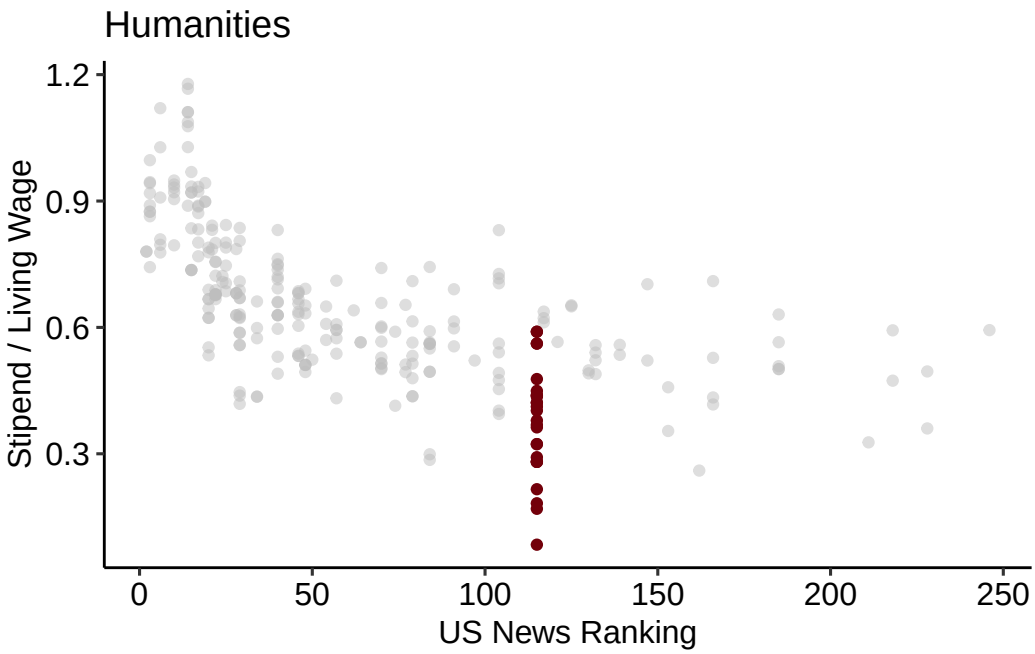

Music
Stipend / Living Wage
0.75
0.50
0.25
30
60
90
US News Ranking
Nursing
Stipend / Living Wage
0.12
0.10
0.08
0.06
0.04
114.950
114.975
115.000
115.025
US News Ranking

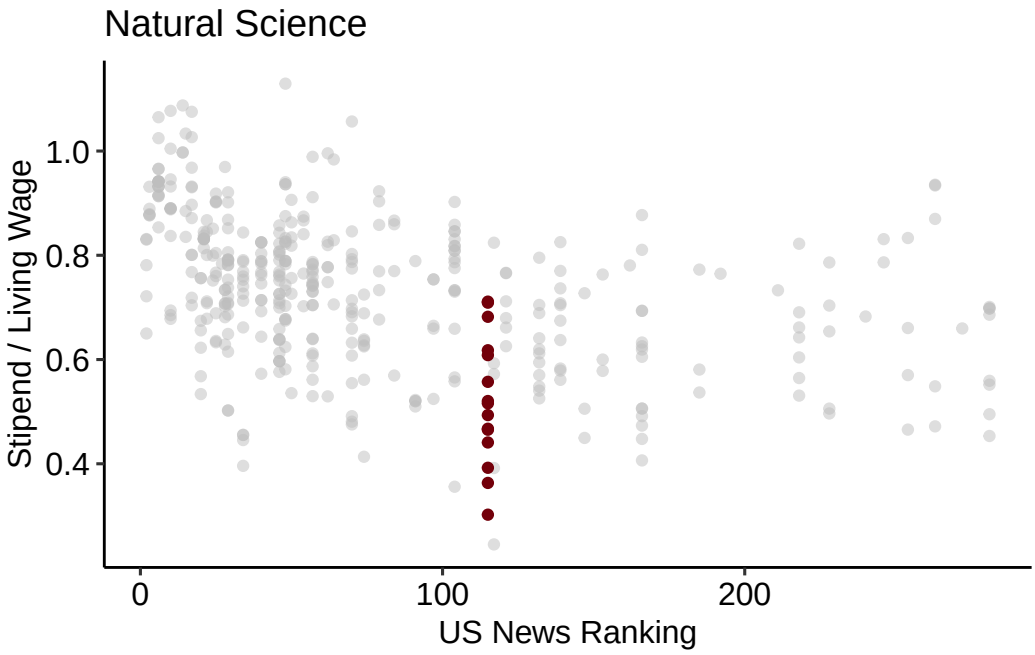

Social Work
Stipend / Living Wage
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0
50
100
150
200
US News Ranking


Professional
Stipend / Living Wage
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0
50
100
150
200
US News Ranking


Engineering
Stipend / Living Wage
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0
100
200
US News Ranking


Social Science
Stipend / Living Wage
1.2
0.9
0.6
0.3
0
100
200
US News Ranking


Humanities
1.2
0.9
0.6
0.3
Stipend / Living Wage
0
50
100
150
200
250
US News Ranking


Natural Science
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
Stipend / Living Wage
0
100
200
US News Ranking