

How can we capture the “qualitative” story behind career interests and do large scale “quantitative” analysis?

#2500744: Developing a Causal Map Assessment Tool for Undergraduate Career Interest Formation and Decision-Making

Background

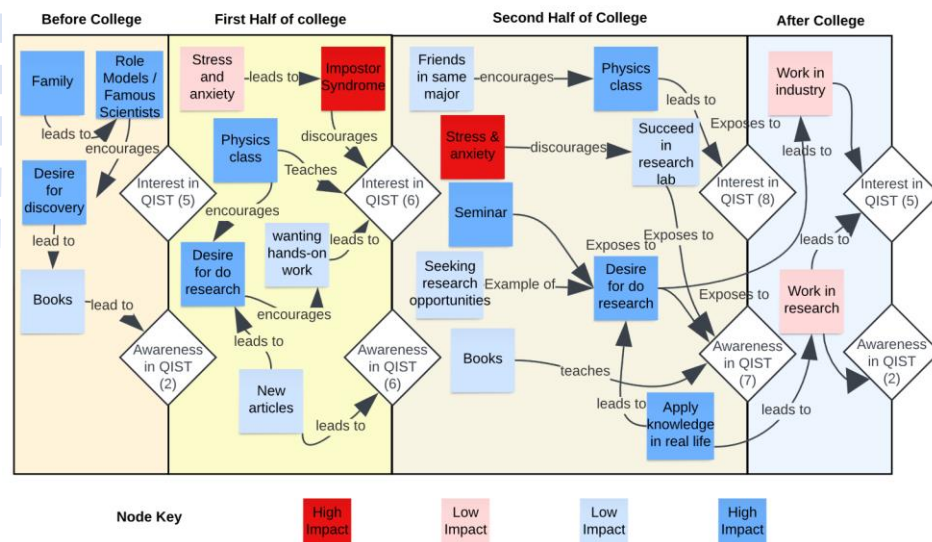
“How do physics students get interested in particular subfields of physics?”

“Everyone grows up with space posters on their wall and I grew up like actually looking at the planets and like looking at stars and stuff. Then I get to college and I take my first astronomy class, and I hated it...alls I'm hearing is: 'I sat at a computer and I looked at data from a telescope'”

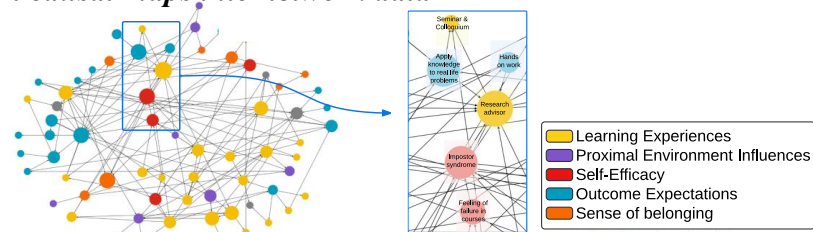
“I've taken **bio classes in high school**, like before coming here and it doesn't make any sense to me. It doesn't even interest me to learn more.”

“I want to make a difference, whatever it is that I'm doing, I want it to make a difference for people.”

Where are we now?



Convert causal maps into network data



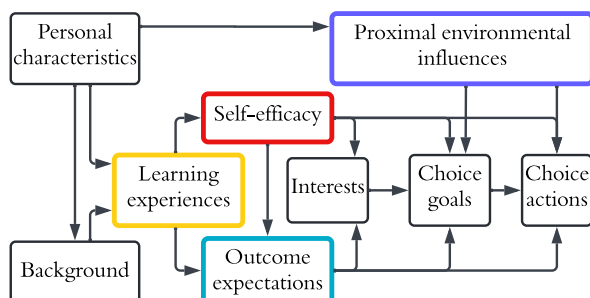
Images created by Matt Lawler, Undergraduate Research Student, Rochester Institute of Technology.

Methods

Mixed-methods

Validity

Social Cognitive Career Theory



Challenge Area

- Designing an intuitive interface.
- Balancing structure and flexibility.
- Ensuring cross-platform usability.
- Ensuring our testing population represents a wide range of student backgrounds and experiences.
- Optimizing assessment timing.