

Why Study Humanities?

Did you know that over two-thirds of humanities majors get jobs in the private sector?

Did you know that almost 60% of U.S. CEOs have degrees in the humanities?

Students of the Humanities are not just well-versed in their subject, they are also great communicators and excellent writers. They often have a love of arts and people as well. These qualities make Humanities students valuable in corporations and a wide variety of institutions which value a well-rounded individual, with an interdisciplinary background. These qualities also translate to a host of job options: teaching, counseling and social work, though many choose to gain a more specialized graduate-level degree.

The broad and flexible skills of a degree in Humanities -- communication, writing, problem-solving and critical thinking -- are readily transferable to a large number of business careers, though some further training or education may be necessary. This is also true of professional careers in law and medicine.

Jobs for Humanities Majors or for people with degrees in the Humanities

Teacher

Given the focus on writing and speaking in a Humanities major, graduates are well-prepared to become teachers. However, aspiring elementary, middle school or high school teachers usually need to be licensed, and licensure requirements include completion of a teacher-preparation program and a state exam, in addition to a bachelor's degree. Postsecondary teachers usually hold a

doctoral degree, though some colleges hire teachers who only hold a master's degree.

Artist

Are you an artist or craftsman? Combine a degree in the Humanities with an education in your own form of artistic expression to enrich, deepen, and widen your artistic perspective. Having a background in art history could help you in your career, as well as marketing yourself.

Counseling

A Humanities bachelor's degree is a perfect starting point for someone who wants to be a counselor. Most counseling positions require completion of a master's degree, and licensure is often necessary as well.

Lawyer

As a lawyer, you'll use your reasoning and people skills to advise clients and guide them through the legal system. Earning a bachelor's degree in Humanities is one way to prepare for law school. In addition to a bachelor's degree, you'll need to earn a Juris Doctor (JD) and pass the bar exam to become a lawyer.

FBI Agent

Working for the FBI sounds like something out of a crime drama, but the FBI needs people who know how to read and interact with others. Your knowledge of foreign cultures and languages can be an asset in this career.

Public Relations Manager

Public relations is a growing career field and requires strong reading, writing and interpersonal skills. Combine this with your understanding of human nature and you are ready to help others create and maintain their public image.

Human Resources Specialist

If you're good at dealing with people, human resources is right for you. Human resource specialists are integral to the interviewing and hiring process. You'll also work with employees on any problems they might have, manage benefits packages and arrange certain events and seminars.

Using Writing, Reading and Communications Skills

Students of Humanities often possess strong reading and writing skills, sometimes in more than one language. The following list highlights some careers for which these skills are essential:

Author

Creative writing takes many forms. As part of your studies, you will have done a lot of reading, both fiction and non-fiction, as well as scholarly articles, etc. Using the critical and analytical skills you have developed, you have a sense of what works and what doesn't. So write!

Journalist

If you think reporting is in your future, look everywhere from blogs to local newspapers. You already have a lot of the skills required here, and you might also be good at interviewing subjects.

Foreign Correspondent

If you have an interest in journalism, consider working your way up the ranks to be a foreign correspondent. Knowing about different cultures, languages and histories is a good background to have for this job.

Editor

You've edited your own work and maybe other people's papers throughout college. Why not make a profession out of it? Look for a company that needs someone to edit technical work, or work from home editing magazine articles.

Interpreter and/or Translator

If you learned a second language as a humanities student, you can become an interpreter or a translator. These professionals translate a foreign language into English or vice versa. Interpreters specialize in spoken or signed language, while translators work primarily with written materials.

Technical Writer

The subject matter may be dry, but you'll be able to continue honing your abilities as a writer. You'll also have to judge your audience and write for them accordingly.

Advertising Copywriter

Someone has to write all those ads...

Library and Museum Careers:

Conservator

Registrar

Technician

Archivist

Institutions that gather and distribute knowledge attract students of Humanities. Museum curators, for example, use their knowledge of history, art or culture to develop exhibits. Librarians apply historical, literary and referential knowledge to assist patrons. Historical Societies are often local or regional, and need people with a broad base of knowledge. Turn your interest in art and anthropology into your dream job at a museum. Museums are always trying to hire recent grads. They need tour guides and people to run the help desk. With some experience and a master's degree in museum studies, you might work your way up to a curator position and manage the museum's collections and activities. These are just a few of the possibilities for you. A Humanities major or degree is inter-disciplinary, so there are many directions you can go in your career or pursuit of higher education.

Most importantly, you will have given yourself a knowledge of other cultures, where culture fits into history, and where you fit in the story of us – the Humanities.