

The Humanities in Our Lives

HUMANITIES MAJORS IN THE WORKFORCE

Recent studies have shown that virtually all humanities majors (96%) are employed, and the vast majority of them (87%) are satisfied with their careers—comparable to their peers with degrees in the sciences. And although there is a pay gap between humanities majors and those in many other fields, the gap often decreases over time.

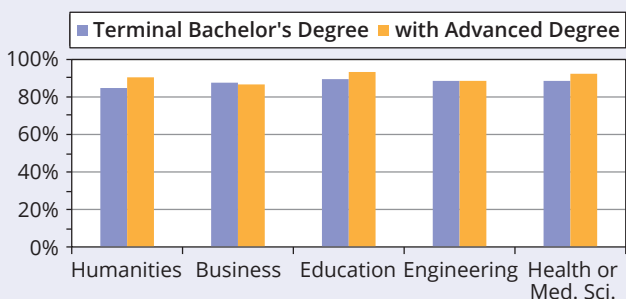
HUMANITIES JOBS

In the past decade, journalists have written countless stories fretting over the supposedly dismal career outcomes of humanities majors. The data do not support this familiar story, as job satisfaction and unemployment rates for humanities graduates are similar to degree recipients from other fields.

KEY FACTS

- Asked about particular aspects of their jobs (such as opportunities for advancement, intellectual challenge, and contribution to society), humanities graduates had satisfaction rates similar to their peers.
- Among graduates with a humanities bachelor's degree, 11% work in professional and managerial positions—about the same rate as social science and business majors.

Overall Job Satisfaction of Bachelor's Degree Holders, by Field of Bachelor's, 2015



INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

At the University of Wisconsin at Madison, liberal arts students can leverage **SuccessWorks**, an innovative new program tailored to helping them find jobs. The SuccessWorks offices provide standard career counseling services such as help with resumes, internships, practice interviews, as well as workshops and career fairs—even wardrobe assistance (with a lending library of interview clothes available for students).

"It's about helping students capitalize on what is a world-class education and to go on to make a good living and lead a good life."

But what's unique about SuccessWorks is that its advisers specialize in eight specific career areas like health, business, and politics. With the right advice about the skills and approach the industry requires, an English major may find work in the consulting field, or a history student in health care. SuccessWorks provides tools and resources to help smooth graduates' transitions into the workforce.

The Humanities in Our Lives series (#HumInOurLives) highlights the many and diverse forms of humanities activities in the nation, and key facts about the health of the field.



For more on the broad trends that mark American engagement with various forms of the humanities, visit humanitiesindicators.org or email humanitiesindicators@amacad.org.