Employers Actively Seek Humanities Majors’ Skills

Employers are looking for graduates with skills the humanities foster, such as critical thinking and ethical judgment. Humanities graduates are well-positioned to meet employers’ needs and succeed in a variety of occupations.

Employers Prioritize Skills the Humanities Cultivate

The Humanities Prepare Students to be Good Managers

Google’s Project Oxygen found that the following skills make a good manager:

- being a good coach
- communicating and listening well
- possessing insights into others (including others’ different values and points of view)
- having empathy toward and being supportive of colleagues
- being a good critical thinker and problem solver
- being able to make connections across complex ideas

Employers Seek Hires With Foreign Language Skills

Business executives see foreign language skills and appreciation of cross-cultural difference as important for positions at all levels.

Nearly 40% of business executives reported a failure to reach their international potential due to language barriers

Source: Kedia, Xie, and Daniel, 2014

Americans lose almost $2 billion each year due to language or cultural misunderstandings

Source: New American Economy, 2017

1 in 4 U.S. employers lost business due to a lack of foreign language skills

Source: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2019

9 out of 10 U.S. employers rely on employees with language skills other than English

Source: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2019

56% of U.S. employers say their foreign language demand will increase in the next five years

Source: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2019