Humanities Majors Do Increasingly Well Over the Course of Their Careers

These data illustrate how growth in humanities majors’ incomes over the course of their career outpaces graduates from other fields, including degrees commonly assumed to have a higher return on investment (ROI). These long-term measures provide a more accurate picture of educational ROI than commonly used measures that are based only on comparison of post-graduation salaries.

### Years of Experience vs. Salary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Experience</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–5</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–20</td>
<td>$72,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20+</td>
<td>$82,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### High Achieving Humanities Majors Reap Rewards: Lifetime Earnings for Top 10% of Earners for Each Discipline

- **Business Management:** $2.9 million
- **Computer Science:** $3.0 million
- **Philosophy & Religious Studies:** $3.11 million
- **Area, Ethnic, and Civilization Studies:** $3.47 million

Data includes full-time workers with bachelor’s degrees in the selected fields.

**Source:** “Career Earnings by College Major,” The Hamilton Project, The Brookings Institution.

### Bachelor’s Degrees in Humanities Bring a Big Return on Investment

- **English:** $444,700
- **French:** $470,900
- **History:** $537,800
- **Philosophy:** $658,900

**Source:** Jeffrey Dorfman, “Humanities Degrees Provide Great Return on Investment,” Forbes, November 20, 2014.