

Humanities Majors are Employed at Rates Comparable to Other Majors

Today, the unemployment rate for young humanities majors (ages 22 to 27) is similar to the rate for majors in other fields: art history (3.2%), chemical engineering (3.8%), communications studies (3.9%), and biology (5%).

Source: "Labor Market Outcomes of College Graduates by Major," Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 2018.

Even when the economy was in the early stages of recovering from the recession, Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce found that in 2010–2011 the unemployment rate for recent graduates in the humanities and liberal arts (9%) was on par with rates for such majors as law and public policy (9.3%), and computers and math (9.1%).

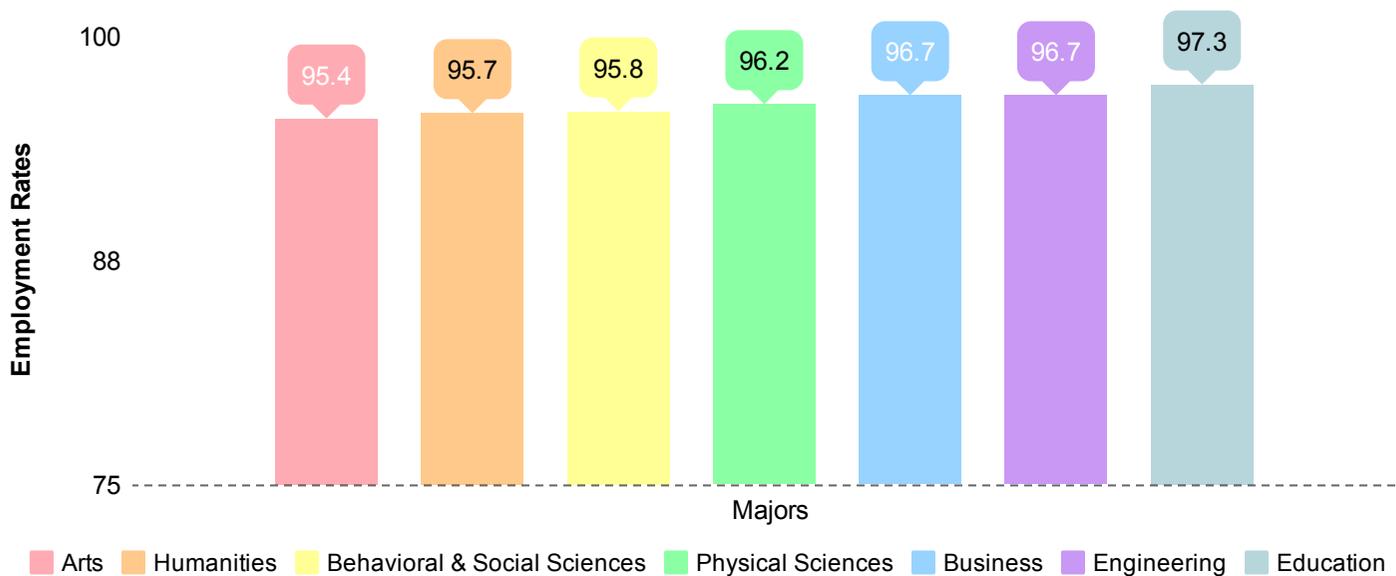
Source: Carnevale and Cheah, "Hard Times: College Majors, Unemployment and Earnings," Georgetown University, 2013.

4.3%

unemployment rate for young humanities majors

Source: Humanities Indicators, 2018

Recent Humanities Graduates are Employed at Similar Rates to Other Majors



Source: Humanities Indicators, "The State of the Humanities 2018: Graduates in the Workforce & Beyond," American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2018, 12.

Humanities Majors Are at the Top of a Variety of Fields

Humanities majors find employment in a wide range of fields, from business and financial relations to healthcare and law.

Nearly 60% of humanities majors have jobs that involve managing or supervising.

Nearly 40% of humanities majors have jobs that involve teaching.

Source: Humanities Indicators, "The State of the Humanities 2018: Graduates in the Workforce & Beyond," American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2018, 14, 16.

Out of college, humanities majors earn salaries comparable to those graduating with other majors. The median salary for humanities graduates (ages 25–59) is \$52,000. This is comparable to graduates in pre-law and legal studies (\$51,000), psychology and social work (\$47,000), education (\$45,000), and neuroscience (\$44,000).

\$52,000

Median salary for humanities and liberal arts graduates (ages 25–59)

\$51,000

Median salary for pre-law and legal studies graduates (ages 25–59)

\$47,000

Median salary for psychology and social work graduates (ages 25–59)

\$45,000

Median salary for education graduates (ages 25–59)

\$44,000

Median salary for neuroscience graduates (ages 25–59)

Source: Carnevale, Cheah, Hanson, "The Economic Value of A College Major," Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University, 2015.



National Humanities Alliance

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