Employers Actively Seek Humanities Majors’ Skills

More than 80% of employers want the skills that humanities majors cultivate. They:

- think it is very important for recent college graduates to have critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills.
- think it is very important for recent college graduates to have good written and oral communication skills.
- are more likely to consider candidates who have completed multiple courses involving significant writing.


The Humanities Prepare Students to be Good Managers

Google’s Project Oxygen analyzed its hiring, firing, and promotion data since 1998 and found that the following skills make a good manager:

1. being a good coach;
2. communicating and listening well;
3. possessing insights into others (including others’ different values and points of view);
4. having empathy toward and being supportive of one’s colleagues;
5. being a good critical thinker and problem solver;
6. and being able to make connections across complex ideas.

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

Source: Valerie Strauss, December 20, 2017

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.

Source: Kedia, Xie, and Daniel, 2014

16% of employers are satisfied with recent graduates’ foreign language skills.


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

Source: Kedia, Xie, and Daniel, 2014.

In response to 9/11, FBI increased language experts on staff by 85%.

Source: U.S. Senate, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs