HUMANITIES AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ENCOMPASS:

• Art History and Archaeology
• Classics
• East Asian Languages and Cultures
• English and Comparative Literature
• French and Romance Philology
• Germanic Languages
• Italian
• Latin American and Iberian Cultures
• Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies
• Music
• Philosophy
• Religion
• Slavic Languages

WHERE DO HUMANITIES MAJORS GO?

Here are some examples of organizations that hired Columbia humanities majors last year in recent years:

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN THE HUMANITIES?

A degree in the humanities provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum, including:

• **Education**: Teaching, Curriculum Development, Higher Education Student Services, Administration, Advising/Counseling, Fundraising and Development, Information/Library Services
• **The Arts**: Administration/Management, Archival Work, Education, Research, Translation, Museum Work: Curatorship, Conservation & Restoration, Development/Fundraising, Appraisal
• **Local, State, Federal Government**: Demography, Social Statistics, Public Policy, Regional Planning, Research, Intelligence, Foreign Service, City or Town Management, Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services, Program Administration, Community Affairs
• **Nonprofit**: Administration, Public Relations, Program Coordination, Fundraising/Development, Grant Writing, Community Education
• **Business**: Financial Services, Consulting, Sales, Management, Human Resources, Public Relations, Training and Development
• **Media:** Reporting, Editing, Publishing, News Programming, Sales, Blogging, Investigative Journalism
• **Law:** Prosecution, Defense, Contractual, Corporate, Nonprofit or Public Interest, Government, Mediation
• **Social Services:** Case Management, Counseling, Rehabilitation, Administration, Vocational Training, Advocacy
• **International Affairs:** Governance, Policy Making and Analysis, Public Sector Reform, Poverty-Reduction Strategy, Ethics and Anti-Corruption, Human Rights, Public Law

Use CCE’s [Industry Exploration](https://careereducation.columbia.edu) webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.

### What do employers want?

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

*Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook*

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

### What value do Humanities majors bring?

A degree in the humanities can help to develop a number of skills and abilities that all employers seek, including:

- Ability to think critically and creatively
- Ability to write clearly and effectively
- Ability to analyze and synthesize information
- Research skills
- Verbal communication skills
- Collaboration and teamwork skills
- Ability to develop creative solutions to unique situations
- Familiarity with diverse cultural contexts

### What if I’m an international student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job *directly related* to the student’s major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at [careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students](https://careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students).