

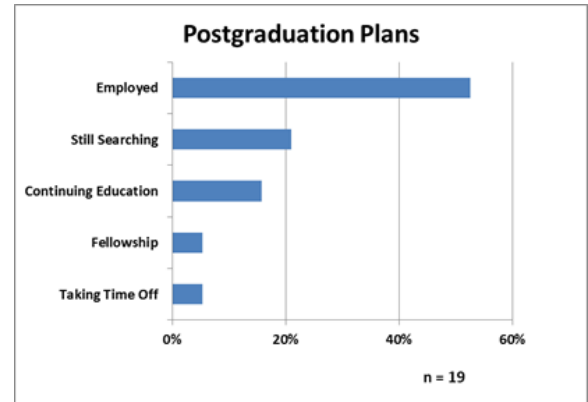
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
Career Education

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN HUMAN RIGHTS?

Where do Human Rights majors go?

The Center for Career Education conducted a post-graduation survey of human rights majors in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Of those who responded, 73.6% were employed, had a fellowship, or were going to graduate school.

- 52.6% were employed
- 5.3% had a fellowship
- 15.8% had secure plans to attend graduate school



Here are some examples of organizations that have hired Human Rights majors in recent years:



What jobs do Human Rights majors do?

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

- **Advocacy:** Domestic and International Advocacy, Humanitarian Services, Development (Economic, Community, Housing), Disaster/Disease Relief, HIV/AIDS Advocacy, Policy Development, Program Administration, Education, Volunteer Coordination, Grant Writing, Fundraising/Development, Research
- **Law:** Human Rights Law, International Law, Immigration Law, Education Law, Public Interest Law, Lobbying, Government Relations, Elected or Appointed Leadership, Public Policy, Research, Intelligence, Campaign Management, Special Interest Advocacy, Program Administration
- **Social Services:** Administration and Planning, Human Services Provision, Public Health, Disaster/Disease, Economic Development, HIV/AIDS Work, Policy Development, Program Administration, Program Evaluation, Volunteer Coordination
- **International Relations:** Diplomacy, Peacekeeping, Foreign Affairs, Program Administration, Community Development, Economic Development, Resource Development, Public-Private Partnerships, Governance, Policy Making and Analysis, Legislative Services, Political Advising, Public Sector Reform, Poverty-Reduction Strategy, Ethics and Anti-Corruption, Human Rights
- **Communications:** Foreign News Correspondence, Reporting, Editorial/Column Writing, Investigative Journalism, Research, Photography, Freelance Work

Use CCE's [Industry Exploration](#) 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 Human Rights majors and concentrators bring?

The Human Rights curriculum helps you to develop the ability to:

- Communicating effectively through writing and speech
- Understanding historical, social, political, cultural and economic processes and their effects on current events
- Conducting research and analyzing data
- Communicating across cultures and to varied audiences
- Understanding international human rights issues, laws and policies
- Reaching new conclusions through comparative study

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.