

The Humanities in Our Lives

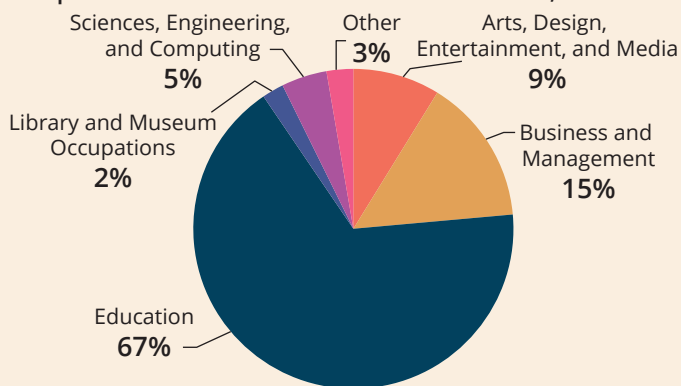
CAREER DIVERSITY FOR HUMANITIES PH.D.'S

Humanities Ph.D.'s are found in a wide variety of occupations, but in comparison to other fields they tend to be concentrated in higher education. Since the recession, a growing number of scholarly societies and other humanities organizations have focused time and attention on promoting career opportunities beyond the academy.

KEY FACTS

- As of 2015, about 30% of humanities Ph.D.'s were employed in occupations outside academia, up from just under 20% in the late 1970s.
- In 2015, American universities awarded nearly 6,000 doctoral degrees in the humanities, the highest number to date.

Occupational Distribution of Humanities Ph.D.'s, 2015



THE VALUE OF A HUMANITIES PH.D.

A recent survey found that 15 years after earning the Ph.D., 69% of humanities doctoral recipients believed their doctoral programs had prepared them “extremely well” or “very well” for their jobs. Of those with nonacademic jobs, 81% said they would go back and earn a Ph.D. in the humanities again if given the chance. They also reported that receiving a Ph.D. in the humanities had “prepared them well for their jobs” outside academia.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

A variety of programs developed since 2010 support Ph.D.'s looking for work outside academia. The American Historical Association's **Career Diversity for Historians** program, for instance, seeks to provide doctoral students and early career historians with information and internships that can open job opportunities in a wide variety of professional settings. Similarly, the Modern Language Association's **Connected Academics** program helps connect Ph.D.'s in language and literature programs with nonacademic jobs and provides boot camps, career advice, networking, and fellowship information.

Finally, the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows Program provides Ph.D.'s in the humanities with two-year fellowships and a stipend of \$68,000 to work in either the government or nonprofit sector where they receive mentorship and valuable work experience. The goal of the program is to “expand the reach of doctoral education in the U.S. by demonstrating that the capacities developed in the advanced study of the humanities have wide application, both within and beyond the academy.”

The Humanities in Our Lives series (#HumInOurLives) highlights the many and diverse forms of humanities activities in the nation, and key facts about the health of the field.

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For more on the broad trends that mark American engagement with various forms of the humanities, visit humanitiesindicators.org or email humanitiesindicators@amacad.org.

 **HUMANITIES INDICATORS**
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