

# The Humanities in Our Lives

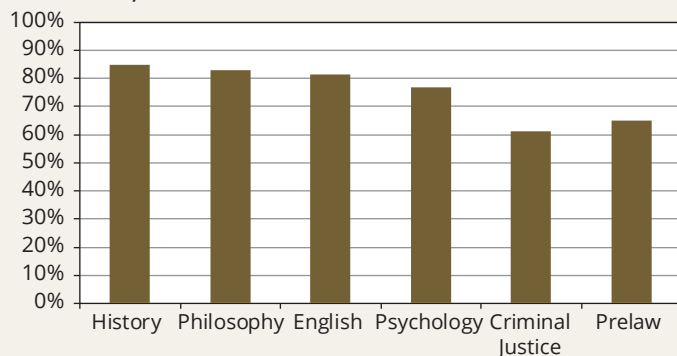
## HUMANITIES AND THE LAW

Law, although traditionally thought of as outside the humanities, has still been closely connected with it for centuries. Jurisprudence is included in the scope of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and each year a disproportionate share of humanities graduates go on to study law or take jobs in the legal system.

### KEY FACTS

- Today, 27% of humanities undergraduate majors find employment in the field of law, and humanities majors constituted 26% of all law school admissions in 2017.
- On average, 81% of humanities majors who applied to law school were admitted.

Share of Students with College Major Accepted into Law School, 2017



## THE VALUE OF HUMANITIES IN LAW

Jobs in the legal field are both highly sought after and well paid, and humanities majors are well-positioned for law school because of their writing, critical thinking, and communications skills. For humanities graduates, the legal system provides some of the highest median salaries, ranging from nearly \$121,000 a year for lawyers to \$51,000 for paralegals and legal assistants (positions that do not generally require an additional degree).

## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

In 1972, Georgetown University pioneered **Street Law**, comprising “innovative programs in which law students teach non lawyers about law, the legal system, and the fundamental principles of democracy. Law students trained in interactive teaching pedagogy teach high school students, disadvantaged populations, and others the basic information, skills, and attitudes they need to thrive as active members of their society.”

Street Law provides benefits to both law students and the public. Law students prepare lessons and teach the law to nonexperts, and this forces them to “thoroughly learn the legal content but also develop and practice the fundamental lawyering skill of explaining complex legal concepts in language understandable to lay audiences.” On the other hand, the public builds an “understanding of practical legal matters and develop the skills and attitudes they need to effectively engage in the democratic processes of their communities. The programs also offer positive outlets for young people to serve their communities and learn to manage conflict in socially acceptable ways.”

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.

THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

For more on the broad trends that mark American engagement with various forms of the humanities, visit [humanitiesindicators.org](http://humanitiesindicators.org) or email [humanitiesindicators@amacad.org](mailto:humanitiesindicators@amacad.org).

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