There are many ways of understanding the value of a college education in the humanities. Drawing on American Community Survey data, this profile explores humanities majors’ career outcomes: what they do for work, how much they earn, and how they compare to graduates from other fields.

226,477 humanities majors reside in Illinois and work full-time. They represent 5% of the state’s full-time workers.

**Earnings**

Annual Earnings of College-Educated Workers (Full-Time), by Undergraduate Major

- **Engineering**
- **Business**
- **Natural Sciences**
- **Behavioral & Social Sciences**
- **Humanities**
- **Education**
- **Arts**
- **Associate’s Degree**
- **High School Only**

**MEDIAN EARNINGS OF HUMANITIES MAJORS**

- $43,724 workers aged 22–26
- $68,865 bachelor’s degree only
- $82,394 workers aged 30–59
- $85,641 advanced degree in any field

See back for information on humanities graduates’ employment.
All of the estimates presented here are derived from the American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (2017–2021). Unless otherwise specified, earnings and unemployment estimates are for workers aged 25–59.

Additional information (including earnings estimates by gender, race/ethnicity, and humanities discipline) and our methodology are available at:

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