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.

131,363 humanities majors reside in Maryland and work full-time. They represent 6% of the state’s full-time workers.

**Earnings**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>25th Percentile</th>
<th>50th (Median)</th>
<th>75th Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>$37,821</td>
<td>$46,347</td>
<td>$51,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$50,550</td>
<td>$51,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$50,550</td>
<td>$51,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>$60,120</td>
<td>$67,975</td>
<td>$71,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td>$46,347</td>
<td>$51,603</td>
<td>$58,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$50,550</td>
<td>$58,117</td>
<td>$67,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>$46,347</td>
<td>$51,603</td>
<td>$58,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s Degree</td>
<td>$46,347</td>
<td>$51,603</td>
<td>$58,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Only</td>
<td>$37,821</td>
<td>$46,347</td>
<td>$51,603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEDIAN EARNINGS OF HUMANITIES MAJORS**

- **$49,189** workers aged 22–26
- **$73,719** bachelor’s degree only
- **$92,676** workers aged 30–59
- **$98,378** advanced degree in any field

See back for information on humanities graduates’ employment.
37% of college graduates in library and museum jobs majored in the humanities.

28% of college graduates in legal jobs majored in the humanities.

Unemployment by College Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Humanities Graduates</th>
<th>All College Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service &amp; Sales</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Finance</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office &amp; Administrative Support</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Design, Entertainment, &amp; Media</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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