Michigan’s Humanities Majors: What They Earn & What They Do

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.

110,199 humanities majors reside in Michigan and work full-time. They represent 3% of the state’s full-time workers.

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

- **Engineering**: $102,993
- **Business**: $78,234
- **Natural Sciences**: $77,245
- **Behavioral & Social Sciences**: $68,175
- **Humanities**: $66,945
- **Education**: $63,160
- **Arts**: $58,117
- **Associate’s Degree**: $51,496
- **High School Only**: $41,197

#### MEDIAN EARNINGS OF HUMANITIES MAJORS

- **$38,258** workers aged 22–26
- **$58,878** bachelor's degree only
- **$72,095** workers aged 30–59
- **$78,191** advanced degree in any field

See back for information on humanities graduates’ employment.
44% of college graduates in library and museum jobs majored in the humanities.

25% of college graduates in legal jobs majored in the humanities.

Unemployment by College Major

- Humanities: 4%
- Natural Sciences: 2%
- Engineering: 2%
- Business: 3%
- High School Only: 7%

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: