Washington’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.

140,634 humanities majors reside in Washington 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**: $134,116
- **Natural Sciences**: $94,006
- **Business**: $92,694
- **Behavioral & Social Sciences**: $82,144
- **Humanities**: $71,051
- **Education**: $70,654
- **Arts**: $58,117
- **Associate’s Degree**: $48,407
- **High School Only**: $40,000

**MEDIAN EARNINGS OF HUMANITIES MAJORS**

- **$46,347**: workers aged 22-26
- **$74,936**: bachelor’s degree only
- **$86,357**: workers aged 30-59
- **$90,994**: advanced degree in any field

See back for information on humanities graduates’ employment.
42% of college graduates in library and museum jobs majored in the humanities.

30% of college graduates in legal jobs majored in the humanities.

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.