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Future of Work

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Point 1: Demand for Humanities Skills Will Increase in the Age of Automation
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The Humanities Equip Students for the Workforce of the Future

In this section we highlight three trends that illustrate (1) why demand for the valued skills (https://www.studythehumanities.org/valued_skills) cultivated through the humanities will increase in the future, (2) why the humanities provide a reliable foundation for career success (https://www.studythehumanities.org/career_success) in an uncertain future of rapid change, and (3) how humanities majors will continue to thrive

(https://www.studythehumanities.org/majors_excel) and emerge as field leaders (https://www.studythehumanities.org/field_leaders) as shifts in the nature of leadership increasingly play to their strengths.

Research forecasting future hiring trends suggest that *more* students should be choosing to study the humanities. Human capital experts argue that the value of distinctly human skills is likely to increase as more straightforward logical tasks are automated through advances in artificial intelligence and robotics. The models produced by these experts predict increasing demand for employees with skills fostered by the humanities, including empathy, communication, social perceptiveness, judgment, negotiation, and persuasion.

Experts also agree that the amount of “churn” in the job market will continue to increase steadily—and perhaps exponentially—as new industry-shaping technologies are introduced. The notion that someone can acquire a single set of marketable skills in four years of college that will serve them throughout their professional careers is more dubious than ever. Experts observe that the skills the humanities foster provide a more reliable foundation for such an uncertain future, equipping students with the capacities they need to learn, grow, and adapt to changing realities throughout their lifetime.

As the job market changes, the leaders of tomorrow will also be expected to deliver on broader and more complex measures of success—trends that play to humanists’ strengths. Research is revealing that the most effective leaders are those who activate workers’ intrinsic motivation by persuading them of the inherent meaningfulness of the work they do. Future leaders will also need to embrace ambiguity and complexity, navigate complex ethical challenges, and effectively communicate across cultures—all skills taught in humanities classrooms. The humanities provide students with the tools they need to rise to the challenges of 21st century leadership.

Explore Other Sections

1

Majors Thrive

Humanities majors outperform their peers on many measures and enjoy their studies

(/majors_thrive)

2

Valued Skills

Employers want humanities majors' knowledge and skills

(/valued_skills)

3

Career Success

Humanities majors find lucrative and satisfying careers

(/career_success)

4

Field Leaders

Humanities majors are at the highest levels of a wide variety of professions

(/field_leaders)

5

Benefits for Life

The benefits of studying the humanities extend far beyond career

(/benefits_for_life)

6

Future of Work

Humanities majors are well-equipped for the future needs of the workforce




(/future_of_work)

Contact us

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New podcast out now!

Our new podcast, *What Are You Going to Do with That?*, explores how everyday folks with diverse backgrounds are using humanities knowledge and skills to build fulfilling careers in a variety of industries.

Listen to the podcast (https://www.studythehumanities.org/podcast)

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