



 | ACADEMIC & CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

ARTS & SCIENCES CAREER GUIDE

Myths Versus Facts

Myth: I won't make any money with an Arts & Sciences major.

Fact: While income for liberal arts majors may be somewhat lower for their very first jobs compared to students from technical or specialized fields, this salary discrepancy quickly disappears. Over time, liberal arts majors experience much larger salary increases and may even end up out-earning their peers from other educational backgrounds. (Source: PayScale)

Myth: You must go to graduate school rather than starting a career right out of an undergraduate program.

Fact: A degree in Arts and Sciences can provide a strong foundation for pursuing advanced degrees in fields such as medicine, business, education, or law. However, many students choose not to continue their studies and begin working in entry-level positions right after completing a bachelor's degree. In fact, liberal arts majors have great flexibility in career choice because of the versatility of their degrees and variety in experiences.

Top 5 Necessary Skills in Omaha

- Communication (Verbal)
- Ability to work in a team
- Strong work ethic
- Detail-oriented
- Communication (Written)



(Source: Job positions posted to UNO Career Connect, UNO, Fall 2016)

How Pay Stacks Up

Median annual earnings for select liberal-arts and other degrees, based on years of experience.

LIBERAL-ARTS MAJORS	0-5 yrs	10-20 yrs	20+ yrs
English lang. & literature	\$39,000	\$69,000	\$73,000
History	41,000	72,000	81,000
International relations	44,000	74,000	119,000
Philosophy	42,000	82,000	97,000
Political science	43,000	77,000	89,000
Psychology	38,000	60,000	69,000
OTHER MAJORS			
Accounting	\$47,000	\$73,000	\$84,000
Business management	45,000	69,000	81,000
Civil engineering	56,000	89,000	108,000
Computer science	63,000	103,000	116,000
Hospitality management	39,000	60,000	70,000
Nursing	57,000	73,000	75,000

Note: Data is for bachelor's degree Source: PayScale
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Your Major Doesn't Decide Your Career—You Do!

Many students struggle with identifying career options, as liberal arts majors often do not provide a linear career path to follow. We tend to assume that our major should predict what we do next. In reality, you can find Education majors working in Human Resources and Philosophy majors without business education running major corporations. As you go through school, supplement what you are learning in the classroom with real-world experience. Volunteer, work part-time, study abroad, take Service Learning courses, get involved in campus organizations, complete an internship. Gaining experience will not only make you more marketable upon graduation, it also helps you to clarify your interests, values and skills. Then, be prepared to share how these experiences relate to the job. Be intentional in making the connection for employers of how your education and unique background will benefit them.

Application Example

Don't just say, "Yes, I studied abroad for a summer in Spain. It was amazing!" Instead, tell them about what you gained from the experience. "During the summer I spent studying abroad in Spain, I was able to greatly improve my intercultural and Spanish-language skills. While I was there, I volunteered in a health clinic and was able to interact with patients from diverse backgrounds. I believe this knowledge will be beneficial in working with Spanish-speaking clients in this social service role."



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402.554.3672 | ACDC.UNOMAHA.EDU
UNOACDC@UNOMAHA.EDU

