



GRACE COLLEGE

HOW TO CHOOSE
A COLLEGE FOR

Humanities



How do I choose a college for the humanities?

Maybe you've been thoughtfully considering a humanities major for some time, or perhaps this is the first time you're hearing the word "humanities." Either way, it's important to understand why the humanities are important and what humanities majors contribute to our world.

If you're interested in going into a field that [promotes human flourishing](#), you'll need to know what to look for in a school. Here are five questions to ask each school you visit as you discern which college is best for you.



What are my degree options in humanities?



Humanities majors encompass a broad range of studies. It's important to make sure your desired degree is offered. It's also good to make sure the school provides a number of degree options in case you want to switch majors halfway through your education.

At Grace, our Department of Humanities includes four distinct yet interrelated programs:

- [Communication](#)
- [English & Journalism](#)
- [History & Political Science](#)
- [Modern Languages](#)

It also includes the [interdisciplinary studies](#) major.

This department is now the largest at Grace and includes diverse majors and minors such as [pre-law](#), [museum studies](#), [journalism](#), [English education](#), and [digital communication](#).

How do you define humanities?



It's important that your future college shares in the passion you have for your major. While you research and visit each school, ask the humanities professors what the field of humanities is all about. You might be surprised at what you find from their responses! We also encourage you to ask students about their own definitions of the humanities. You'll get a different answer at every school!

According to Dr. Lauren Rich, chair of the Department of Humanities at Grace College, "To study the humanities is to study what it means to be fully human. The humanities encompass the study of human expression, experience, and flourishing, at both the individual and societal level."



How can I get involved?

As a humanities major, the best way to put your degree into practice is through the co-curriculars offered by your college. Extracurricular activities help build your confidence in a specific area, be it public speaking, foreign languages or writing. They are also a great way to build friendships with other humanities majors. Find out what your prospective colleges have to offer!

Grace College's Department of Humanities is all about taking classroom skills into the real world. It is the academic home to a number of extracurricular groups.

- [Forensics](#)
- [Winona History Center](#)
- [Institute for Global Studies](#)
- [The Sounding Board](#)
- [Mediation Team](#)
- [Inkspot Literary Magazine](#)



Will humanities help me in the real world?

By asking this question, you will be able to see how the school applies the knowledge that they teach. If you believe there is more to education than sitting in a classroom, you will want to make sure your future school has the same philosophy. It's important for you to know that a program will help guide you to the career and position you want to land.



LINDSEY RICHTER Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, MODERN LANGUAGES PROGRAM



“Studying humanistic disciplines permits us to engage with far-flung communities—across time, across space, between cultures and languages. The humanities teach us who we have been and who we are, but also who we can be—demanding more of our imagination, our aspirations.

In an increasingly divided world, the humanities are a site in which real dialogue between people of different beliefs is possible, because studying the humanities draws us away from the simple truths of ideologies and toward the slender knowledge of the highest things.”



What do humanities graduates contribute to the world?

This question opens the door to learn about the support system a college has for its alumni as well as the career paths you can pursue when you graduate. If the professors at a college can readily share about their alumni and what they have accomplished post-graduation, you know that career placement is important to them. It also demonstrates that they really care about their students.



“Humanities majors are, in a very real sense, lifelong learners. They graduate with the tools, training, and motivation to continue learning, researching, adapting, and growing throughout their lives. It’s no surprise that many of the most effective leaders — from industry to politics to media — majored in humanities.

Even students whose career plans require specific technical preparation, such as pre-health or accounting majors, often find that a second major or minor in humanities gives them a leg up in the job market and the soft skills to navigate new work environments and promotion paths.”

LAUREN RICH Ph.D.
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Humanities is a front-row seat.



"Through humanities, we are given a front-row seat to the world and many different cultures. We are given a pair of glasses to see the experiences of others more clearly. We are presented with many different cultural influencers and introduced to their beautiful life work and diverse voices. We are also able to engage the past, enjoy and evaluate the present and anticipate the future because of the value of humanities."

COKIESHA BAILEY ROBINSON

GRACE COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEAN OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



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