

U. Miami Non-Undergraduate Survey: Would You Advise Someone to Major in the Humanities?

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In this report, we examined non-undergraduate responses to questions Q44 and Q44A, which asked students whether they would advise a friend to major in the humanities, and why.

I. Visualizations and Statistics

Q44: Would you advise someone to major in the humanities?

Total Respondents: 197 out of 236

- 26% Yes
- 11% No
- 46% Depends
- 17% No answer

Q44: Would you advise someone to major in the humanities?

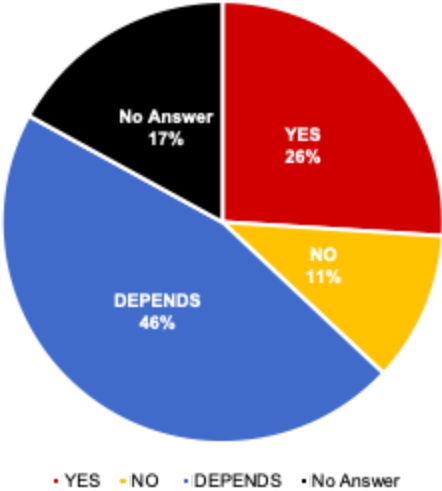


Fig. 1: Q44 results

- “It is empowering and fulfilling.”
- “What’s more important than seeking to understand human behavior (including our own)?”
- “No matter what employment you end up in, it will lend itself to making a person well-rounded.”
- “I would if they were unsure of what to do because it is a broad and flexible degree that may still offer great skills that may applied [sic] anywhere anyway as well as allow space for growth and development.”
- “People should major in the humanities because they teach different styles of reading, how to judge qualitative evidence, how to write correctly and persuasively, how to think analytically with and about words, how to use the imagination, how to become more empathetic, and how to appreciate important fields of knowledge (history, literature, philosophy, religion, culture, etc.).”
- “To be able to think critically and outside the box!”
- “It’s helped me understand myself and the world and it’s made me feel good about myself. It’s been a great outlet for my passion.”
- “In the longer sweep of life, the big questions are the ancient big questions of the centuries, and they ooze into the sciences and engineering and technology and society and everything so profoundly that understanding that is actually more interesting in the long run than the fascinations of cleverness, gadgets, moneymaking, etc.”
- “Because you learn what you need to know to live a moral life.”
- “The humanities provide an important set of skills for reading and writing. Information learned in humanities courses is important, but even more important are the approaches to learning that the humanities teach.”