

U. Miami Non-undergraduate Survey: Humanities and Work

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In this report, we analyze one question (Q41), which asked non-undergraduates about the relevance of humanities to their current career.

I: Statistics

Q41: How relevant do you think the humanities are to your job on a day-to-day basis?

Total Respondents: 197 out of 236

Very relevant: 37%

Somewhat relevant: 33%

Not relevant: 13%

No answer: 17%

II: Observations

The percentage of people who chose either “very relevant” or “somewhat relevant” for this question is a little surprising. This might have to do with the specific population of people we drew from for this survey: those who spend time and work on a college campus. As many non-undergraduates who responded to the survey are either graduate students or employees of the university, odds are good that they might interact with the humanities or people who work in humanities fields on a regular basis. Or, even, that they might have a better understanding of which disciplines fall under the label “humanities” and therefore are better able to see connections to their work than people who have a less complete understanding of the term. It is interesting that such a strong majority of people answered either “very relevant” or “somewhat relevant,” given other questions where respondents expressed strong doubts about the practicability of humanities in the workplace.

However, these results are somewhat contradicted by the percentage of people who declared that majoring in the humanities is a way to acquire marketable job skills (see [KF-9-5](#)) is only 25%, but many of them use humanities in their job (37% “very relevant” and 33% “somewhat relevant”). Perhaps the problem is that the skills taught by humanities are useful in the workplace, but their “labeling” is less marketable.