

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central white area where the text is placed.

# Careers for Humanities Majors

Arts and Humanities Day

November 11, 2017

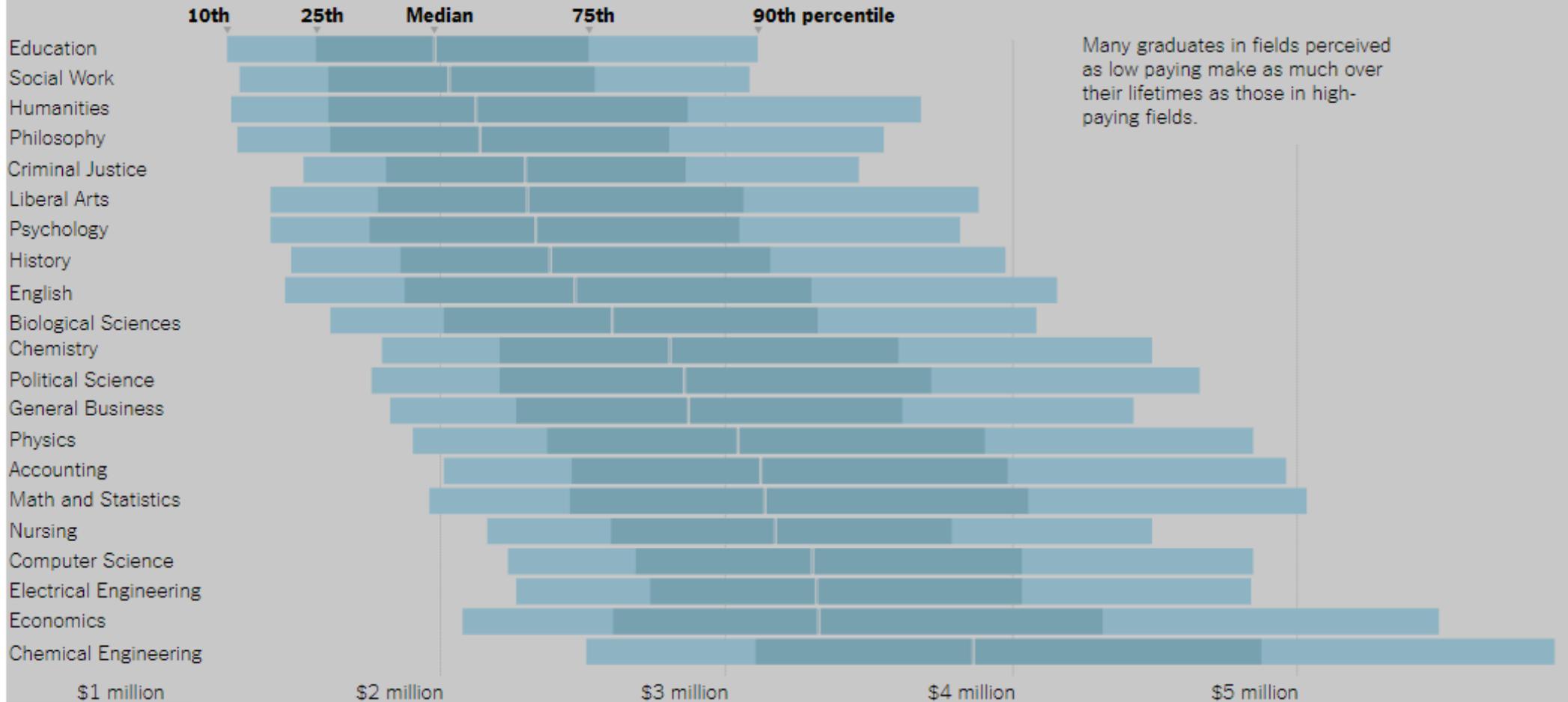
# Cultural Messages about Humanities Majors, or What Your Parents and Friends May Tell You

- ▶ Expect to be a Starbucks barista after you graduate from college—no one will hire you.
- ▶ Even if you get a job, you won't make any money as a liberal arts graduate.
- ▶ And how do you plan to get a job as a humanities major? After all, a nursing major becomes a nurse; an accounting major becomes an accountant. If you're not going to teach English or history, what do you do with an English or history major?

# Empowering fact #1: here's the truth about salaries—you can make money as a humanities graduate!

- ▶ While starting salaries for majors in STEM fields may be greater than starting salaries for students with humanities majors, over the course of a lifetime, the average English and history graduate makes a comparable salary to the average graduate in a business or STEM field.
- ▶ According to a recent article by Jeffrey J. Selingo in the *New York Times*, “the top quarter of earners who majored in English make more over their lifetime than the bottom quarter of chemical engineers” (“Six Myths About Choosing a College Major, 3 Nov 2017).
- ▶ See the accompanying chart on the next slide. Selingo comments on the data: “An English major in the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile makes \$2.76 million in a lifetime, a major in psychology \$2.57 million and a history major \$2.64 million.”

## Projected career earnings for college graduates in the ...



Source: "The Lifetime Earnings Premia of Different Majors," 2014 (updated: 2017), by Douglas A. Webber; published in Jeffrey J. Selingo, "Six Myths About Choosing a College Major," *The New York Times*, 3 Nov 2017.

## Empowering fact #2: you can choose from a wide range of careers, beyond teaching!

- ▶ Most students with humanities majors find the thought of employment post-graduation to be stressful, because they don't know exactly what they will be doing (remember, a nursing major will become a nurse, an accounting major will become an accountant. . .). But that stress can be greatly reduced if you realize that you can do almost anything—you need to use your four years in college to identify your passions, to build the skills that will allow you to pursue your passions, and to take advantage of opportunities that will provide you with experiences that will connect you to employers or graduate schools.

# Careers for History and Political Science majors

- ▶ Business and Finance
- ▶ Community Relations Coordinator
- ▶ Consulting
- ▶ Elected Office
- ▶ Foreign Service Officer
- ▶ Journalism, Media, and Communications,
- ▶ Labor Relations Specialist
- ▶ Law
- ▶ Legislative Aide
- ▶ Museum Curator
- ▶ Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- ▶ Non-profit Organizations
- ▶ Policy Analyst
- ▶ Policy Research
- ▶ Political Advisor
- ▶ Political Survey Analyst
- ▶ Public Administrator
- ▶ Public Service in State, Local, and Federal government
- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Average Starting Salary: \$40,000 - \$43,000
- ▶ Sources: [http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees\\_that\\_Pay\\_you\\_Back-sort.html](http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees_that_Pay_you_Back-sort.html) and <https://www.forbes.com/sites/susanadams/2015/07/02/the-college-majors-with-the-highest-starting-salaries/#239586af3502>

# English and Writing: Salaries, Bureau of Labor Statistics

- ▶ Proofreaders \$35,300
- ▶ Desktop Publishers \$41,130
- ▶ Curators & Archivists \$50,770
- ▶ Librarians \$57,550
- ▶ Digital Content Manager \$62,930
- ▶ Newspaper, Book, and Periodical Editors \$63,000
- ▶ Public Relations Specialists \$63,020
- ▶ Market Research Analyst \$67,780
- ▶ Technical Writers \$70,290
- ▶ Agents of Artists, Performers, & Athletes \$96,410
- ▶ Human Resource Managers \$111,180
- ▶ Advertising & Marketing Managers \$124,640
- ▶ Lawyers \$131,990



Empowering fact #3: the careers of the future increasingly require the skills of humanities majors, which makes you a sought-after employee!

A 2017 paper by David J. Deming, “The Growing Importance of Social Skills in the Labor Market,” noted that job growth since the 1980s has increasingly been found in occupations that require the ability to communicate, to collaborate, and to engage in critical thinking—all skills that humanities majors develop.  
Source: <http://www.nber.org/digest/nov15/w21473.html>

# Top 10 Skills Employers Look For – NACE

National Association of Colleges and Employers

1. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
2. Ability to work in a team structure
3. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

# Skills Achieved with Your Degree

- ▶ Critical analysis
- ▶ Creative thinking
- ▶ Written and oral communication
- ▶ Detail-orientated thinking
- ▶ Editing and revising
- ▶ Ability to follow guidelines
- ▶ Research skills
- ▶ Independent thinking and leadership
- ▶ Logical reasoning
- ▶ Organizational skills
- ▶ Problem solving
- ▶ Proofreading
- ▶ Synthesizing information
- ▶ Working within deadlines



# Take advantage of the opportunities provided by your college education in order to be more successful in your career:

- ▶ “It sounds simple, but sometimes new hires lack basic communication skills. That’s because as students you are exposed to people who are at a similar age and experience level. In a work environment, new hires may not be used to talking to senior leaders or in front of diverse groups. New hires can quickly learn how to fit in and ‘show well’ by observing the language and style of communication used on everything from email, team meetings, and virtual meeting platforms. Speaking, writing, and communicating in a corporate environment is quite different from talking with peers. So understanding this and treating this as a skill to work on is key.”

Source: <http://www.wrkinprog.com/the-facebook-effect-college-graduate-job-applicants-are-useless/>

## Empowering fact #3: being a humanities major at Cedar Crest allows you to take advantage of opportunities to hone the skills employers want

- ▶ Small classes emphasize discussion and independent learning, bolstering your development of the “soft skills” employers seek. See your classes as opportunities to practice writing with clarity and insight, speaking professionally, collaborating with others, and solving problems creatively.
- ▶ Students in humanities disciplines can easily expand on the power of their majors by double majoring or minoring in related (or unrelated) fields—or by seeking internship experiences that build skills in areas that include social media, graphic design, writing for businesses, curatorial practices, and leadership.
- ▶ Since humanities majors can do almost anything after graduation, that freedom also means that it’s important to see every component of your education as an opportunity to **explore** (learn what you want to do) and to **practice** (actively engage your education by studying passionately and embracing extra-curricular opportunities). Cedar Crest provides professional and personal growth opportunities—it’s up to you to take advantage of them!

- ▶ “I think the benefits of a humanities degree can’t be overstated. With the pace of technological advancements, all of those narrowly focused, skills-based degrees can become obsolete awfully quickly. A literature degree, however, doesn’t have an expiration date.” --Theresa Hegel '98 (Executive Editor, Wearables)
- ▶ “All of my Humanities classes involved participation and group work. These opportunities allowed me to practice leadership and management skills. Participating in discussion, workshopping, and group work requires engaging others, discussing difficult topics, disagreeing respectfully, critiquing others’ ideas, delegating, and confronting others. I’m not the head of an office or an organization, but these leadership skills are essential to my work in leading meetings, organizing groups, mediating conflict, and being a good colleague.” --Jen Cole '03 (Associate Dean of Academic Advising, Gettysburg College)



Lindsey Jancay '12 (Director of Collections and Programming, Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites; completed majors in English and art, and minors in writing and American history at CCC.)



Students volunteered for the 2016 Democratic National Convention; this work led to professional contacts and career path affirmations.