

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, GENERAL

What can I do with a major in the humanities or social sciences?

The humanities and social sciences are broad categories that include many specific majors. While definitions can vary, art history, classics, history, philosophy, and religion are usually considered humanities majors (as are art, music, and languages, which are discussed in separate planning guides). The social sciences include fields such as anthropology, geography, and sociology (as well as economics, political science, and psychology, which also have separate planning guides). Some majors, such as ethnic studies, combine aspects of both the humanities and the social sciences.

Most majors in the humanities and social sciences do not necessarily prepare students to enter a specific career after graduation, but they should help students develop certain skills that will be valuable in many jobs. Strong written and oral communication skills, as well as analytical, critical thinking, and quantitative skills, are valuable in many careers in business, education, or the non-profit sector. Majors in the humanities or social sciences can also be excellent preparation for professional graduate programs such as law, social work, or urban planning.

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in the humanities or social sciences?

While some majors in the humanities and social sciences, such as art, music, or economics, may have considerations that are particular to their field, the preparation at community college for many majors in the humanities and social sciences will be very similar. Students planning to major in the humanities or social sciences at a baccalaureate institution should take **courses in their intended major, as well as general education requirements**, to prepare to transfer. Some social science programs may also require **statistics**. For many majors in the humanities and social sciences, 2-3 courses in the intended major may be sufficient, but it is always recommended to check the requirements for individual universities to find out how many and which specific courses are required. Requirements vary according to the transfer university, so students should work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to major in the social sciences or the humanities should consider earning the Associate of Arts – DTA degree to prepare to transfer.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Global Studies, Global Health, Sustainable Agriculture or Equity and Social Justice. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement. You may even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as a Humanities or Social Science Major

- Many humanities and social science undergraduate programs will have no specific math requirement aside from completing a college-level math course to meet graduation requirements. Some social science majors will require statistics, a few require at least some calculus. If your math skills are weak or it has been some time since you took math, do not put off getting started! Depending on your placement scores, you may need to take math for several quarters before you are ready to start college-level math.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- Almost all universities offer majors in the humanities and the social sciences, but the specific majors offered may vary. If you want to study art history, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that major.
- Check both university *admission* and *graduation* requirements at your preferred transfer university as a guide to choosing your classes. Some universities, for example, may require a year of foreign language as a graduation requirement. It may be much easier (and cheaper!) to meet that requirement at Seattle Central rather than waiting until later.

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in the humanities or social sciences in Washington?

Almost all universities offer degrees in the humanities or social sciences. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> to find the specific programs that interest you in Washington State or around the country.

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.