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PART 1

What Are the Liberal Arts and Why Are They Important?

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| *Truth and Value*“Good luck finding a job with that!”  It’s a refrain heard by every liberal arts major, and it’s the most common reaction from students and parents these days. But this reaction shows just how misunderstood the liberal arts are today. It used to be that a liberal arts education was considered necessary for a free person to engage in public discourse, live life to the fullest, and participate in democratic society. This idea––that liberal education is integral for citizens of a free society––goes back to ancient Greece. Part of the confusion about liberal arts is how the definition of the terms have changed over the years: “liberal” means “freeing” (and not, say, democratic or anything political), and it’s more than just the study of “art.” Liberal arts education includes every non-professional academic discipline: subjects like literature, philosophy, psychology, music, and… wait for it––mathematics, physics and biology!Yep, a free person must have a broad education to participate fully in public life. Think of it like this: Do you want someone on a jury if they don’t understand how a lawyer forms arguments (or, even, why juries exist)? How about voting? Would you rather have an informed electorate, a group of voters who examines candidates and makes the best choice for society as a whole, or would you rather have a herd of sheep voting for whoever shouts the loudest?More to the point: Is critical thinking a valuable skill?*Yes?* We thought so… And you know what else? Employers love creative, critical thinkers. The Association of American Colleges & Universities surveyed a wide range of business and nonprofit leaders.1 Here’s a brief summary of what they found:1. 80 percent of employers agree that, regardless of their major, all college students should acquire broad knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences.
2. Nearly all those surveyed (93 percent) say that “a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than [a candidate’s] undergraduate major.”

Most professions––whether you want to be a teacher, a lawyer, or an engineer––require ongoing learning and critical thinking to keep up on the latest developments in the field. A liberal arts major makes for an adaptable, interesting, and dynamic worker. Liberal arts majors, whatever their specialty, are often excellent writers, communicators, thinkers, and teachers. There is another benefit to liberal arts education. It might seem odd, but let’s go back to ancient Greece. Ever heard of a guy named Socrates? Socrates and his students believed that subjects like mathematics, literature, and philosophy are worthy of study in and of themselves. That is to say: these subjects are some of the best parts of life. They believed that it was the highest benefit to the individual and to society to study such disciplines.Education is, at its absolute core, a search for truth.A liberal arts education doesn’t just shape your brain––a liberal arts education shapes your soul. And we all need a little soul-shaping if we are to do good work in our lives.B.D. McClay, in an article for The American Spectator, makes a great point: 2“*[S]ooner or later, people take stock of life and wonder what it is for—and we ought to prepare them to answer. No matter how successful we become, none of us gets to escape this question, any more than we can escape the questions of how to live, or how to understand the world, or of how to organize our society. The person with the successful job and the nice home will still, one day, be called to make an account of himself.”*Let us put aside the bigger search for truth and beauty and ground this discussion in the practical.  College is expensive.  30 years ago, when students were graduating debt-free, spending four years studying English may have been reasonable.  But now that the price tag of many colleges exceeds $200,000 for four years, we can put a price tag on the pursuit of truth and beauty.  For most students, the justification for majoring in liberal arts needs to be something more than warm, fuzzy feelings and a better understanding of life.From here on out we will approach liberal arts from a practical perspective.  We think a liberal arts major can be justified given the realities of modern life, and we hope this guide will arm you with a realistic sense of how you too can major in liberal arts and not end up living in a van down by the river.Want to know what life is like as a liberal arts major? Keep reading.Want to learn some ways you can improve job prospects while in school? Keep reading.Want to see some liberal arts success stories? Keep reading.*Onward to truth.*  | Liberal education is integral for citizens of a free society.93% of employers say the ability to think critically is *more* important than your undergraduate major. |

PART 2

What is Life Like as a Liberal Arts Major?

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| *Finding Your Way*Let’s start by acknowledging that there are very few guarantees left of a guaranteed path to money, respect, and prestige.  Many professions that used to be so are starting to crumble.  Applications to law school are in free fall, as the unemployment rate among new lawyers - 12 percent as of 2014 and climbing - is twice the national average.3 Doctors - still the most respected profession in surveys of Americans - are now consistently saying that the field is in decline (60 percent of doctors now tell their kids, “don’t be a doctor”). 4It’s hard to predict which fields will be next.  20 years ago, being a travel agent was a secure, valued field.  Newspaper journalists still had good job security, and few of us could see the writing on the wall for these fields.  Which ones will be next?  Sure, engineers are in demand for now, but will that always be the case?Understand that this uncertainty is the new normal: according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, late baby boomers - those born between 1957 and 1964 - held 11.7 jobs over their career.5 Forbes predicts that for Millennials, that number will climb to an estimated 15-20 jobs over the course of their working lives. 6  The only certainty in today’s economy is that young people will change jobs and even industries with increasing regularity.What, then, should be the point of a college education in this environment?It’s not what you learn that matters.  Go with me on a thought experiment.  Think back to your favorite class in college.  Think of the one that made the biggest impact in your life.  Was that impact based on what you learned?  Do you think that you would even pass the final exam now? If you’re like me, you wouldn’t, and not because you were a bad student but because it’s not what you learn in college that matters.  It’s learning to think in a new way.In this new era of uncertainty and job changing, we should put a primary value on skills that are transferrable among fields and skills that allow us to cope with the uncertainty of our economic futures.  In a graduation speech last year, Fareed Zakaria7 identified three skills that liberal arts majors learn that will help us adapt to this new economic reality:1. to write clearly
2. to speak (and speak your mind)
3. to learn how to learn

Here’s the big takeaway: Liberal arts majors don’t always fit into a specific mold. But they have broad-based, applicable skills necessary in a variety of employment settings. This means that while liberal arts majors must find opportunities in which they can apply their skills, they are well-suited to adapt to the working world.*Building Skills and Experience*Hopefully we have now established the economic value of studying the liberal arts as a way to navigate the rocky terrain of modern economic life.  But how should you as a potential liberal arts major square this information with the statistics about employability after graduation?Let’s look at the college majors with the highest and lowest salaries. 8 It’s hard to argue against being an engineer at this present moment: 9 of the top 10 majors by earning are in engineering (the other is in pharmaceutical sciences).  And engineering is a great field for those who are competitive (most engineering programs are very difficult), who like math and science, and who love to work in the technology sector.  But if that isn’t you, then forcing a square peg into a round hole doesn’t make sense.    |  The big takeaway:Liberal arts majors don’t always fit into a specific mold. |

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| Highest-Paying Majors |
| Rank | Field | Mid-career Salary (Median Annual Wages for 25-29 year olds) |
| 1 | Petroleum Engineering | $136,000 |
| 2 | Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences | $113,000 |
| 3 | Metallurgical Engineering | $98,000 |
| 4 | Mining and Mineral Engineering | $97,000 |
| 5 | Chemical Engineering | $96,000 |
| 6 | Electrical Engineering | $93,000 |
| 7 | Aerospace Engineering | $90,000 |
| 8 | Mechanical Engineering | $87,000 |
| 9 | Computer Engineering | $87,000 |
| 10 | Geological and Geophysical Engineering | $87,000 |

Figure 2.1

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| Lowest-Paying Majors |
| Rank | Field (Liberal Arts in Bold) | Mid-career Salary (Median Annual Wages for 25-29 year olds) |
| 128 | Family and Consumer Sciences | $45,000 |
| 129 | Drama and Theater Arts | $45,000 |
| 130 | Elementary Education | $43,000 |
| 131 | Theology and Religious Vocations | $43,000 |
| 132 | Visual and Performing Arts | $42,000 |
| 133 | Teacher Education: Multiple Levels | $42,000 |
| 134 | Social Work | $42,000 |
| 135 | Studio Arts | $42,000 |
| 136 | Human Services and Community Organization | $41,000 |
| 137 | Early Childhood Education | $39,000 |

Figure 2.2

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| If you’re not great at math and science, then you probably won’t make it as an engineer.  According to a study by UCLA, only 40 percent of STEM majors (science/technology/engineering/math) complete their degree in 4 years, compared to 60 percent of non-STEM majors. 9 This statistic reflects the dropout rate among those who may have thought they wanted to be engineers, but who could not cut it when they get to college.Of the bottom 10, only three are technically liberal arts - drama, visual arts, and studio arts (Figure 1.2).  The rest are related to a professional field (e.g. elementary education, theology, teacher training, etc.)  But either way, this chart reflects supply and demand: there are relatively few engineers to the huge quantities of liberal arts majors.  And while it is possible to be a liberal arts major and be well paid (indeed, this number is merely the median), you would be wise to consider that your job prospects are going to take some work from you.So what are some ways a liberal arts major can distinguish him or herself? How can you build skills and expertise beyond those you gain in your undergraduate classes? Below, you’ll find a brief list of ways to build your *marketability* (we know, buzzword alert!). By no means is this a comprehensive list. It’s just a collection of some great ways to improve your job prospects.1. Internships

You’ve heard of these, right? Internships can be great ways to ingratiate yourself in an organization or industry. There aren’t many industries where you’ll be hired straight out of college. Most times, you’ll need to take an internship or two prior to being hired for full-time work. The key here is to be strategic. Do you want to make films during your career? Apply for summer and school-year internships at a production company, a film rental house, or a local film festival. Interested in politics? Find an internship with a local campaign or politician. Or, look at opportunities for internships in local government. Majoring in art or music? Look for internships at local museums, music nonprofits, or at a local theater or concert venue.  *Important Note: Don’t know what you want to do?  Find an internship that gives you meaningful exposure to a field.  Learn everything you can and gain skills along the way.  Often, the skills you learn in a seemingly unrelated industry can end up helping you in the job you eventually get.*1. Part-time work: Can you say… money? Part-time jobs during school are a great way to make extra income, but they’re also a great way to establish a respectable work history and build your résumé. It’s risky for an employer to give someone a first job––how do they know you’ll show up on time and be effective during the work day? Establish a work history during college. Look for a work-study position on campus. Work in the humanities library, for the university writing center, or ask to conduct research with a favorite professor. Off campus, take an entry-level, part-time position with an interesting organization. Work for an arts nonprofit, favorite gallery, or a local school. Even if your job isn’t exactly what you want to do, it’ll establish work history and a track record of responsibility. *Important note: It’s much easier to move up in an organization than it is to gain entry in the first place. Say you’re an art history major and you have a part-time gig at the museum of modern art. Suddenly, after you graduate, you qualify for that assistant curator position that just opened––and the head curator already knows you’re great!*
2. Student organizations: Often, these function as a combination between part-time work and internships. The barrier to entry is minimal, so a student organization is a great option. Interested in working in marketing, journalism, or public relations? You better be heavily involved with your student newspaper. Want to work in community organizing, politics, or social justice? Establish a presence and take a leadership position in a social justice organization or a campus political group. Most universities and colleges have various ‘centers’ devoted to important topics. Find out which professors are running these centers or organizations and ask to get involved. *Important note: Many student organizations are funded by the school; this means a stipend is a possibility. For instance: Some editors for university newspapers receive a modest stipend each month (I got $450 a month to edit my school newspaper, and it was a tiny state college!).*
3. Independent study: What the heck is this? An opportunity for adventure, that’s what. Most departments in universities and colleges offer independent study as a class option (usually, you can only enroll once). Under the tutelage of an advisor or professor, you can study a topic of your choice and create a project based on your findings. Some examples: A film major who makes a short documentary film about a local artist, a history major who studies the activist history of his/her school, a philosophy major who spends a semester studying a reality television show, or an English major who creates a short book of poems centered around a historic event. The point here is that you finish the semester (or quarter) with a tangible, real-world project. This is great proof for employers that you can actually get stuff done. *Important note: Independent study courses are preceded by a proposal. This means you should dialog with a professor––yep, get to know your professors––about what you’re thinking. Professors have to justify nominating students for independent study; that means you need to persuade them of your project’s value. Or, enlist them for help refining the scope of your independent study.*
4. Certificate and credential programs: Most universities and colleges offer advanced certificate programs. These help students gain valuable expertise in certain subsets of various professions. Often, certificates require a minimal amount of courses (from four to six) and can be taken in place of electives. Some examples: An English major might want to investigate a certificate in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), a film or art major might want to get a certificate in grant writing or nonprofit management. A communications major might want to get a certificate in copyediting. Every school has different offerings. The point is to maximize your education. If you can gain a professional qualification and it’s included in your tuition––why the heck not? *Important note: These programs require research on the student’s behalf. Often, certificates are marketed to the surrounding community as part of the university’s mission, but that doesn’t mean students can’t take advantage of the classes/programs. Find out what’s possible and build your skills!*

*Life After School*If you’ve been diligent, hard working, and creative during your undergraduate education, you’ll have a plan for after you graduate. Securing a great first job––whatever your major––can be difficult, but there are some things we can tell you that might help.First, networking is a key ingredient in successful job searches. Life, whether fair or not, is often about who you know. What does this tell us? Those internships you took during your years in school are pretty important, huh? Maybe you can’t get a job at one of those organizations, but you can be certain that a recommendation from your supervisor goes a long way. And you know what? Most people are pretty familiar with their industry colleagues. Maybe you want to teach high school––do you think all the administrators from local high schools know each other? Probably. Maybe you want to work for a marketing company––do you think your favorite public relations professor has some ideas for whom to contact? Yep, most likely. Maybe you want to work for a local arts nonprofit––do you think the arts administrator you met while volunteering at a crafts fair will sit down for coffee with you? Yep, there’s a good shot he or she will.The point here is simple, but important: Develop and maintain relationships.Second, make sure your résumé, cover letter, and personal profile are ready prior to graduation. Most universities and colleges, no matter how small, have a career center. This is a place you should know intimately. Career centers can provide personal feedback on your résumé and cover letter. They can also point you to job search websites and databases. This is all stuff you must do outside of your degree program. That means it’s on you––not your school. Hey, remember that impressive research project you completed during your independent study? It should be listed on your résumé and on your LinkedIn profile. Oh, and here’s another point: The internet can either be your best friend or your worst enemy. Be sure your social media profiles––and this includes Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram––are presentable for possible employers. You know why? They’ll look. They might say they won’t or don’t, but they probably will. Be very careful and strategic concerning your online presence!The big takeaway is this: Work on your professional profile.Third, post-graduate opportunities are out there. You just need to look for them. Ever heard of the Fulbright program? This competitive program places recent graduates overseas where they teach English or other subjects. And it’s all paid for. Other options are Teach for America, Peace Corps, and AmeriCorps. These programs don’t pay very well, but your living expenses are often taken care of, and they provide a viable springboard to careers in public service. Yep, a great possibility for a liberal arts major. Many of these opportunities can be arranged or researched through your school’s career center. Like we said before, the staff in the career center should know you by name. If they don’t, you aren’t taking full advantage of your college education. Make those tuition payments mean something!Here’s what this means: Look for nontraditional opportunities… and then take them.Lastly, remember that each opportunity is one step on the staircase to your dream job. People rarely, if ever, find their dream job right out of school. It just doesn’t happen. And this is not a reflection of your choice in majors––engineering, biology, and computer science majors must work their way up too. As a liberal arts major, you have a key advantage: You understand that all disciplines inform each other, that the world is a complex system of risk and reward, and that your skills––critical analysis, efficient communication, creative problem-solving––increase in value over time. Your education works like a high-yield investment, it gets better with age. Oh, and you have one other key advantage… adaptability. In a world where technology outpaces almost all other growth, liberal arts majors are in the unique position to enter multiple professions. The same can’t be said for narrow-skilled, highly-specialized workers.Final thought: Know that you have advantages, and use them to your benefit (and to benefit others). |   |

PART 3

Profiles in Liberal Arts Success

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| You want some examples for how liberal arts leads to success?No problem. Famous success stories are a dime a dozen… Read’em and rejoice:*The quirky Literature major: Conan O’ Brien*You’ve heard of Conan O’Brien, right? This quirky comedian and writer hosts *Conan*, a late night show that rivals Jimmy Fallon and David Letterman. He’s one funny guy; Conan studied history and literature at Harvard. After college, he found gigs writing for *Saturday Night Live* and *The Simpsons*. How’d he do that? Conan served as president and editor of the Harvard *Lampoon*, a humorous student publication. He created a spoof video game (basketball players faced off against ballet dancers in it), and he crafted a thesis dealing with the works of Flannery O’Connor and William Faulkner. Okay, we know, he went to the lauded “Harvard.” But Conan *did stuff* while he was in college. He undertook these projects because he was passionate. And he built a portfolio of his work; this proved to employers that he could get stuff done.*“All I ask is one thing, and I'm asking this particularly of young people that watch: Please do not be cynical. I hate cynicism; for the record it's my least favorite quality. It doesn't lead anywhere. Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But if you work really hard and you're kind, amazing things will happen.”* – Conan O’Brien*The creative French and Classics major: J.K Rowling*Yep, the super-famous and uber-rich writer of the Harry Potter books, J.K. Rowling, majored in French and Classics at The University of Exeter (in England). Turns out, she wanted to major in English, but her parents wouldn’t have it. Still, she focused in liberal arts and became––by all accounts––a major success. What did J.K. like most about her degree plan? She lived in Paris for a year during her studies. Not a bad way to spend a year in college, right? Okay, we know what you’re thinking. *She’s famous! There will never be another Harry Potter!* And you’re right, but J.K. Rowling worked for Amnesty International while she wrote her first book. This illustrates a great point: As a liberal arts major, you can provide for yourself while you work on a dream that might not fit into a little box. Maybe you want to make a film, write a book, or create a cartoon series––whatever it is, studies in liberal arts provide you tools and skills for broad usage in a variety of fields. *“It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default.”* – J.K. Rowling*The smooth-singing English major: John Legend*John Legend, the smooth-singing pianist and pop star, majored in English at the University of Pennsylvania. He chose a more narrow focus––something all liberal arts majors should consider––and dedicated his studies to African-American literature. He went to Penn, but Legend was offered admission to Harvard, Georgetown, and Morehouse. One thing Legend did well in college was pursue his passions. He served as president of a jazz and a capella group. The group recorded a song that made it onto a compilation album, and Legend’s voice received critical notice. After graduating, while still pursuing his music career, Legend worked as a management consultant for The Boston Consulting Group––a prestigious company that consults for a significant percentage of the Fortune 500. Our guess? Even without his sweet voice, John Legend would have done pretty darn well with his liberal arts education.*“Soul is about authenticity. Soul is about finding the things in your life that are real and pure.”* – John Legend*The tough-as-nails Classics major: Jerry Brown*No matter how you feel about politics and California governor Jerry Brown, you have to admit that Brown’s career is impressive. After majoring in Classics at UC-Berkeley, he became California’s governor at 36-years-old (and served from 1975-83). After some travel and various political stints, Brown became California’s governor *again* in 2011. In fact, Brown has the key distinction of having been one of California’s youngest governors and, curiously, its oldest. We’re willing to bet that Brown’s education and familiarity with the great human thinkers served him well in the political arena.*“Automation and technology would be a great boon if it were creative, if there were more leisure, more opportunity to engage in raising a family, providing guidance to the young, all the stuff we say we need. America will work if we're all in it together. It'll work when there's a shared sense of destiny. It can be done!”* – Jerry Brown*The entrepreneurial History and Literature major: Susan Wojcicki*This incredible executive, now CEO at YouTube, majored in history and literature at Harvard. She later worked for Intel. But that isn’t her claim to fame. Wojcicki was Google’s first marketing manager (way back in 1999). In fact, Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin started Google in Wojcicki’s garage! She worked on a number of now-famous Google projects including Google doodles, Google images, and Google books. It was Wojcicki who told the board at Google that they should buy YouTube. Pretty smart, huh? Turned out, she was right.*“Even though it was a start-up with fewer than 20 people, and I was pregnant with my first child, the best decision I've ever made was to join Google in 1999. Worst decision? Deciding to get a puppy and a bunny right when the baby came.”* – Susan WojcickiOkay, look, these people are either rich, famous, or both––the truth is that there is no guarantee of success in life. Not for a liberal arts major and, for that matter, not for any other major. But for every rich and famous liberal arts major, there are ten thousand liberal arts majors living successful lives with great careers. Ask around, you’ll see. |   |

PART 4

Guide to the Best Schools for Liberal Arts Majors

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| Rating which colleges have the best liberal arts departments is like rating the attractiveness of potential dates: the beauty is in the eye of the beholder.  There is no one-size-fits-all ranking that makes sense when considering, for example, how to evaluate a history department.  One department might be very good in American History, while another might hang its proverbial hat on Chinese History.  Comparing programs is essentially a guess, and absent a no-holds-barred cage match between the English departments of two colleges (boy would we pay to see that!), we have to rely on the opinions of other people.What follows is our attempt to do just that.  We go to several sources - Ruggs Recommendations, The Princeton Review Best Colleges, College Express, and a few others.  Sadly, none of these sources publishes their methodology.  They’re just lists of which colleges they say are best in a particular program.  But our rationale for including them is this: if everyone says that College X has the best psychology department, then there’s probably value in attending that school’s department.  The education is probably pretty darned good, and there’s probably a depth of resources one can find at such a department that will make it better to study psychology there than at any other school.  And of course, if you desire to go to grad school, then attending a program with a good reputation will help your case as you proceed through your desired field.We have taken the three subjects with the best available sources - English, History, and Psychology - and tried to list the colleges that are your Best Bets (a competitive college, combined with a good department that every source mentions as being excellent), the Next Best (a competitive college, combined with a good department that is lauded by multiple - though not all - sources), and the Colleges You Should Know (schools without as much name recognition that are recognized by multiple sources as having an excellent department).  We hope these lists are one of many tools you use in your college search, and we wish you the best of luck! |   |

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| The Best Colleges for English Majors |
| Best Bets: *These colleges are famous, and their English Departments are recognized by every “Top 10 list” for where to Major in English.** Columbia University (New York, NY)
* Amherst College (Amherst, MA)
* Brown University (Providence, RI)
* Emory University (Atlanta, GA)
* Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)
* Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)
* Stanford University (Stanford, CA)
* University of Michigan — Ann Arbor (Ann Arbor, MI)
* Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)

Next Best: *These English departments at very competitive schools still get recognition, just not quite as much as the schools above** Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)
* Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH)
* Duke University (Durham, NC)
* Tufts University (Medford, MA)
* University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)
* University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)
* University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN)
* University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)
 | Colleges You Should Know:*These colleges often fly under the radar, but they shouldn’t, especially since their English departments are very good.** Bard College (Annandale on Hudson, NY)
* Bates College (Lewiston, ME)
* Bennington College (Bennington, VT)
* Bryn Mawr College (Bryn Mawr, PA)
* Colgate University (Hamilton, NY)
* Colorado College (Colorado Springs, CO)
* Fordham University (New York, NY)
* George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)
* Gettysburg College (Gettysburg, PA)
* Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA)
* Hamilton College (Clinton, NY)
* Kenyon College (Gambier, OH)
* Oberlin College
* Pitzer College (Claremont, CA)
* Pomona College (Claremont, CA)
* Smith College (Northampton, MA)
* University of California, Irvine (Irvine, CA)
* University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA)
* Wellesley College (Wellesley, MA)
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| The Best Colleges for History Majors |
| Best Bets: *These colleges are famous, and their departments are recognized by every* “Top 10 list” for where to Major in History.  * Brown University (Providence, RI)
* Columbia University (New York, NY)
* Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)
* Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)
* Yale University (New Haven, CT)

Next Best: *These History departments at very competitive schools still get recognition, just not quite as much as the schools above** Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)
* Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
* University of California — Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)
* University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)
* University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA)
 | Colleges You Should Know:*These colleges often fly under the radar, but they shouldn’t, especially since their History departments are very good.** Bates College (Lewiston, ME)
* Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA)
* Colgate University (Hamilton, NY)
* College of William and Mary (Williamsburg, VA)
* College of Wooster (Wooster, OH)
* Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
* Drew University (Madison, NJ)
* Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA)
* Hampden–Sydney College (Hampden-Sydney, VA)
* Kenyon College (Gambier, OH)
* Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN)
* Williams College (Williamstown, MA)
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| The Best Colleges for Psychology Majors |
| Best Bets: *These colleges are famous, and their departments are recognized by every “Top 10 list” for where to Major in Psychology.** Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA)
* Columbia University (New York, NY)
* Duke University (Durham, NC)
* Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)
* New York University (New York, NY)
* Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)
* University of California — Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)
* University of Michigan — Ann Arbor (Ann Arbor, MI)
* University of Texas at Austin (Austin, TX)
* Yale University (New Haven, CT)

Next Best: *These Psychology departments at very competitive schools still get recognition, just not quite as much as the schools above** Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)
* Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH)
* Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)
* Northwestern University (Evanston, IL)
* Stanford University (Stanford, CA)
* University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
* University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA)
* Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)
 | Colleges You Should Know:*These colleges often fly under the radar, but they shouldn’t, especially since their Psychology departments are very good.** Bates College (Lewiston, ME)
* Clark University (Worcester, MA)
* Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO)
* George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)
* Gettysburg College (Gettysburg, PA)
* Indiana University Bloomington (Bloomington, IN)
* James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA)
* Loyola University (Chicago, IL)
* Pitzer College (Claremont, CA)
* Smith College (Northampton, MA)
* University of California, Riverside (Riverside, CA)
* University of California, Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara, CA)
* University of California, Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, CA)
* University of Oregon (Eugene, OR)
* University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI)
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