



# JOB SEARCHING TIPS FOR LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS

## What are liberal arts?

"Artes liberals are rooted in classical antiquity and refer to the general skills (=artes) a free person (=liberals) needed to contribute meaningfully to society..."

- Dr. Michael Thomas, Associate Professor of Classical Languages & Humanities, Concordia University

"In its broadest of terms, it's an education that provides an overview of the arts, humanities (the study of the human condition), social sciences, mathematics and natural sciences."

- Julie Bogart, Freelance Writer/Contributor to *My College Guide*

## Know the strengths of your major.

In general, liberal arts majors are notable for their transferrable talents in:

- Oral and written communication
- Multicultural knowledge
- Research
- Problem solving & critical thinking
- Creativity
- Ethical decision making
- Synthesizing
- Organization
- Presentation skills

Knowing your talents and skills is important to marketing yourself and developing your resume. These are relevant skills in any industry. Your specific major might offer you even more skills than this general list such as: research, assessment or evaluation.

## Take on a minor or supplement your major with technical certifications and courses.

Supplementing your major with a minor, concentration, emphasis or certification in technical fields like computer science, technology, business, accounting, economics, etc. helps you stand out among peers who only have the liberal arts education or the technical skills. Minor or double majoring in a language can also make you a unique candidate.

## Research jobs you are interested in for post-graduation.

As you continue to identify your interests and strengths, find jobs that allow you to pursue your passions. Researching jobs of potential interest post-graduation will help you see what skills and experiences you need in order to land the job the job you want. Doing this research before you begin seriously job searching allows time to prepare and shape your undergraduate experience so you are a viable candidate for your dream job.

## Build a network.

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, *over 70% of jobs are found through networking*. By connecting with individuals in a field of interest, you give an employer an opportunity to get to know you beyond a resume. If an employer has a personal relationship with you and has had an opportunity to witness your academic achievements or work performance, they are likely to take consider you when a work or professional opportunity arises. If you are not actively networking, but want to get started, set up an informational interview with an expert in your field of interest.

## Resources and actions to consider.

- **Career Shift:** <http://clemsontechcareershift.com>
- **Clemson Job Link:** <http://career.clemson.edu/clemsonjoblink/>
- Check the **National Employment Bulletin for Liberal Arts Professions Binder** (in CCPD Resource Center)
- Read *Ideas for transition from college to career:* <http://careers.williams.edu/jobs-internships/first-senior-jobs/>
- Browse this job industry resource: <http://www.colby.edu/careercenter/students/jobsearch/IndustrySpecific/>
- Get a **Professional Development Certificate** through CCPD
- Join the **Clemson Alumni Association** LinkedIn group
- Become a **Career Ambassador** for the Michelin Career Center