

Dear parents...

“I want to do something in the arts and humanities field but my parents are pressuring me to pursue engineering or something that guarantees a job.” 2018 quote from a first-year student to their UWG advisor

We recognize your concerns and understand your hesitation. We know the stereotype is that an arts and humanities major cannot get a job with their degree. However, we disagree. Our College of Arts and Humanities (COAH) students go on to achieve success and gainful employment post-graduation. Numerous students have obtained master’s degrees and many teach in K-12 and in higher education institutions throughout the country. Some have completed seminary programs or law degrees after graduating from UWG. Success and future employment begin when a freshman student walks on to campus. The experiences of our students and alumni show that students who pursue a course of study that they care passionately about are generally happier and more successful than students who do not.

Did you know?

- That one of our former Music majors, Stacy Condra, now works as a Senior Account Executive for the Atlanta Braves?
- That Brittany Watkins, a former Studio Art major, won the \$25,000 grand prize in the 2017 ArtFields Art Competition?
- Former Theatre major Jared LeClaire coded and designed many of the visual effects for the 2018 feature film *First Man*?
- That former History major, Blake Doss, works as a policy analyst in the Georgia House of Representatives Budget & Research Office?
- That former Spanish major, Krystallyn Keith, served as a cryptologic linguist in the Marines, translating between English and Pashto while on duty in Afghanistan?



What most people think about going to college...(The ideal)



Make a purposeful program choice!

Establish a productive academic mindset* (Students excel when they...)

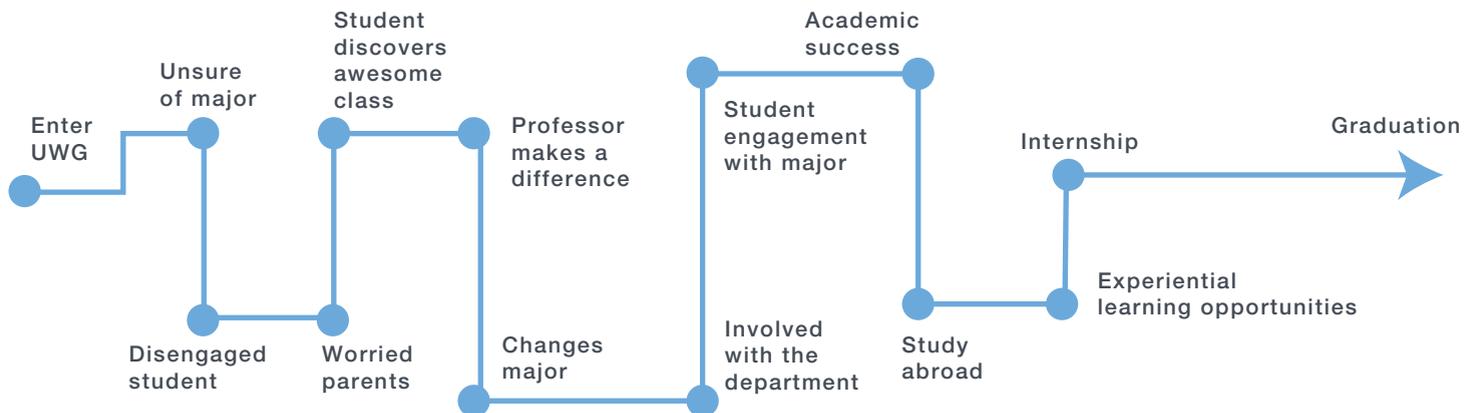
- Believe they are capable of learning the material
- Feel connected to their institution and that they belong
- Have a perceived purpose of coursework
- Have confidence interacting with faculty and staff
- Have grit and perseverance
- **Make a purposeful program choice**

Student success and employment opportunities are also linked to...

- Experiential learning opportunities
- Internships related to his or her major
- Study abroad and study away opportunities

**Dr. Tristan Denley, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, University System of Georgia*

What really happens...(The reality)



It Takes More than a Major:

Employer Priorities for College Learning and Student Success

Overview and Key Findings: A 2013 National Survey of Business and Non-Profit Leaders

When hiring, executives and hiring managers place a high priority on graduates' demonstrated proficiency in skills and knowledge that cut across majors, and hiring managers are closely aligned with executives in the importance that they place on key college learning outcomes. The college learning outcomes that both audiences rate as most important include oral communication, critical thinking, ethical judgment, working effectively in teams, working independently, self-motivation, written communication, and real-world application of skills and knowledge.

(<https://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/2018EmployerResearchReport.pdf>)

Nearly all employers (91 percent) agree that for career success, “a candidate’s demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is **more important than his or her undergraduate major.**”

Nearly all employers (96 percent) agree that “all college students should have experiences that teach them **how to solve problems with people whose views are different from their own.**”

More than three-quarters (78 percent) agree that “all college students should **gain intercultural skills and an understanding of societies and countries outside the United States.**”

Hart Research Associates. Forthcoming. Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success. Washington, DC: Association of American Colleges and Universities.

College of Arts and Humanities Departments and Programs incorporate and teach “Employability Skills” such as:

- Strong reading and writing skills
- Critical-thinking skills
- Teamwork
- Communication skills
- Technology skills
- Time management skills
- Decision-making skills
- Responsibility and self-discipline
- Professionalism
- Independence and initiative

Association of American Colleges and Universities: *Employer Priorities for Most Important College Learning Outcomes*

Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World

- Knowledge and understanding of democratic institutions and values
- Broad knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences
- Intercultural skills and understanding of societies and cultures outside the US

Intellectual and Practical Skills

- Oral and written communication
- Teamwork skills in diverse groups
- Critical thinking and analytic reasoning
- Complex problem solving
- Information literacy
- Innovation and creativity
- Technological skills
- Quantitative reasoning

Personal and Social Responsibility

- Problem solving in diverse settings
- Civic knowledge, skills, and judgment essential for contributing to the community and to our democratic society
- Ethical judgment and decision-making

Integrative and Applied Learning

- Applied knowledge in real-world settings

https://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/Employer-PrioritiesChart_2015.pdf

Over Time, Humanities Grads Close the Pay Gap With Professional Peers

They (Humanities Majors) don't see their education tied to a specific field. That might be unsettling at the beginning, but it means that humanities majors are open to pursuing a variety of jobs in a lifetime—like management or other high-paying positions. For example, one million people with humanities degrees work in management, and some 600,000 work in business and financial operations. A quarter of the legal profession is made up of humanities majors. Those fields can pay well.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Over-Time-Humanities-Grads/242461>



College of Arts and Humanities

Think. Write. Create.

Art • English • Foreign Languages and Literatures
History • Music • Philosophy • Theatre

www.westga.edu/coah