A Liberal Arts Education

vs.

A Career Education

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What is a liberal arts education?

It means:

- Broad

Harvard General Education (GE):
Students will take courses in all 8 areas of GE

1. Aesthetic & Interpretive Understanding
2. Culture & Belief
3. Empirical & Mathematical Reasoning
4. Ethical Reasoning
5. Science of Living Systems
6. Science of the Physical Universe
7. Societies of the World
8. United States in the World

Artist - Physics
Mathematician - Philosophy
Social Scientist - Statistics
What is a liberal arts education?

Duke requires 5 general knowledge areas:

1. Arts, Literatures, and Performance
2. Civilizations
3. Natural Sciences
4. Quantitative Studies
5. Social Sciences

Duke also requires six modes of inquiry:

1. Cross-Cultural Inquiry
2. Ethical Inquiry
3. Science, Technology, and Society
4. Foreign Language
5. Research
6. Writing
Why is it so broad?

• Sharpen your mind
• Develop your critical thinking ability
• Encourage creativity
• Read and write more effectively
• Analyze and synthesize information from multiple resources to come to your own
• Develop capacity in a collaborative manner
• **Goal is** to train leaders
Liberal Arts vs. Career Education

Liberal Arts
• Teach you to think
• Creative
• Open-minded
• Broad
• Prepare you for leadership

Career Education
• Teach you to do
• Practical
• Task-oriented
• Narrow
• Prepare you for employment

Positions:
• Engineer
• Physicist
• Historian

Positions:
• Machinist
• Dental hygienist
• Tour guide
A List of Liberal Arts Colleges

- Williams College
- Yale College
- University of Chicago
- Reed College
- Columba College
- Georgetown College
- Colorado College
- Harvard College
- UC campuses
Not for profit: Why democracy needs the humanities

“Without people with a liberal arts background...the world would be filled with "narrow, technically trained workers, rather than complete citizens who can think for themselves, criticize tradition and authority, and understand the significance of another person's sufferings and achievements."

These so-called soft-skills are essential for developing a "decent world culture" and maintaining healthy democracies, she said. Study of history and culture imparts the ability to approach global issues as a citizen of the world. Study of philosophy teaches the critical thinking skills that help us reason about our choices. Participation in the creative arts fosters an empathetic capacity and, Nussbaum said, "allows us to imagine the challenges facing someone unlike ourselves."

Read the Article
Read IvyClimbing Newsletter:

UNDERSTANDING A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION
BY WAN CHEN

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