

# Opportunities are plentiful for liberal arts graduates

BY SARAH BACHMAN  
Staff writer

As the school year rolls on and graduation nears, many liberal arts students may begin to ask themselves what they are going to do next.

UNL students and academic advisers say more and more opportunities are out there for liberal arts majors.

Jacquelynn Sorensen, undergraduate adviser for the English department, has seen a change in the past few years in the variety of careers liberal arts majors are pursuing.

"It is not as limited as it was thought to have been," Sorensen said.

Sorensen said more and more large businesses are recruiting liberal arts majors. Many will be recruiting at this year's Career Fair on Tuesday.

She attributed the increased recruiting to the fact that bigger companies and employers are taking advantage of the broad education that liberal arts majors receive.

A common misconception among people is that liberal arts majors are most likely to go on to teach, Sorensen said. And while that is certainly true in some cases, liberal arts majors do have more options, she said.

In addition, companies look for the critical thinking skills liberal arts majors possess. Some go on to write or edit for newspapers or use their research skills to work for the government.

And many are being accepted into medical and law school.

Senior English major Chelsea Schlievert said she had once thought that law school was for her but now has plans to attend graduate school.

She is looking forward to seeing what kinds of career options exist for someone with her major.

Barry Schwab, a UNL graduate student in composition and rhetoric, said English majors make up a large portion of law students.

This is, in part, because they communicate and research well, he said.

Darrin Stoll, president of Phi Alpha Theta, a history honorary organization, said history majors may also think their options after graduation are limited to teaching.

His organization is currently making plans for a career workshop specifically for history majors.

This workshop will be held next spring. He hopes it will provide history majors with information about career options, not necessarily in teaching.

"Our goal is to show history majors

what (their education) can do for them and what it can do for their employers," Stoll said.

Another way for liberal arts majors to explore possibilities is at the coming career fair, Stoll said. He said it was a great opportunity to network with different employers.

Andy Strowig, Career Counseling coordinator, said he hopes this year's career fair will show the students exactly what their options are and that they may have more to offer than they think.

"Sometimes arts and sciences students view themselves as less marketable than they really are — they are unaware as to what they can bring to other employers," Strowig said.

He thinks the events are good opportunities for students to get their feet in the door. He encouraged all to attend.

Strowig advised students to use the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of employment options for the future.

"Students should never hesitate to introduce themselves to recruiters and ask about different available positions their organization needs to fill," he said.

It is important to take it all in and explore all the options, Schlievert said. "There are so many different outlets — take advantage of knowing about them all," she said.

# Second language ups marketability

BY TIFFANY CHANTEE ALVOID  
Staff writer

With the rise of the Internet and the low cost of long-distance phone calls, the world is quickly getting smaller.

Tina Cassler, study abroad adviser for International Affairs, believes a student must acquire intercultural understanding and pick up a foreign language to keep up with this changing world.

"By the year 2005 the cultural-ethnic background of most Americans will be more diversified," Cassler said. "Knowing how to speak another language can only help you."

In the job market, Cassler said, this is especially true.

"Knowing another language makes a student more marketable," Cassler said.

Jake Kirkland, assistant director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's

Career Services, said that knowing another language can not only improve students' chances of getting jobs, but it also enhances their salaries.

Cassler added that companies actually save money when they hire bilingual students because they do not have to pay for language classes or cultural training.

Kirkland said he believed Spanish is one of the most marketable languages. Cassler agreed but also added that German, French, Japanese and specialty languages like Czech and Italian are helpful to know.

Kirkland said studying abroad can help students improve their language skills.

"Studying abroad helps a student feel the pulse of the people," he said. "In class, talking about Africa is a lot different than actually going to Africa."

"(Studying abroad) gives you a feeling of the culture, way of life and the people. It also allows you to see how other countries handle economic

"Studying abroad helps a student feel the pulse of the people,"

JAKE KIRKLAND

assistant director of Career Services

and social concerns."

Cassler also said learning a language while immersed in that culture rather than through a book helps a student communicate better with people who speak the language.

"Go overseas to study, do internships and work," she said. "It will increase your intercultural understanding. It is going to be important in not only the United States but overseas as well."

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