

Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities
Careers in the Humanities Faculty Researcher/Consultant Position
Summer 2017

Program description:

The Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities, in coordination with the Dean's Office of the College of Arts & Sciences, is launching a new Careers in the Humanities initiative. This initiative seeks to provide guidance and information on pursuing non-academic employment to humanities graduate students, undergraduate students, faculty, and advisors. Humanities disciplines face a decline in undergraduate majors nationwide, in part because students and their families do not recognize the value of a humanities degree for their future employment. Likewise, graduate students in the humanities enter a very uncertain academic job market and need greater support for obtaining jobs outside of the academy. This initiative seeks to address these issues on our campus by developing resources that will help our students recognize the value of humanities degrees, translate the value of a humanities degree to employers, and develop the skills necessary to pursue interesting and meaningful non-academic careers.

Position description:

- We are seeking a Faculty Researcher/Consultant for Summer 2017 to become a campus expert on these issues.
- This position will pay \$6,000 during the summer term.
- All tenure/tenure-track faculty members, full-time instructors, and advisors in humanities departments in the College of Arts & Sciences (History, Philosophy, Foreign Languages and Literatures, English) are eligible for this position.
- Researcher/Consultant will complete a report (described below) by the end of the Summer 2017 term. This report will aid in the development of future resources for assisting humanities students in obtaining non-academic employment after graduation.
- Research/Consultant will meet with the chairs of CAS humanities departments and Dean Nenon at the start of the Fall 2017 semester to discuss his/her findings.

Tasks:

The Researcher/Consultant will produce a report that will include the following:

- ***Compile and assess examples of how other campuses and professional organizations across the nation are addressing these problems.*** What kinds of workshops and resources do other institutions offer to both undergraduates and graduate students seeking non-academic careers? What kinds of training or skills do they offer faculty members and advisors? What existing approaches/resources developed by others seem to be particularly valuable and effective? Are any of our professional organizations developing programs that would be useful models? Please describe and evaluate existing initiatives for helping humanities students find jobs.
- ***Compile and assess the resources we have available on our campus to help students find meaningful employment, and consult with appropriate campus offices about how they could improve their offerings for humanities students.***

What kinds of workshops and activities are provided by our career services office? Would these be useful to humanities students? Would career services be willing to develop humanities-specific resources and workshops? What other opportunities exist on campus (such as the Crews Center for Entrepreneurship) that might assist our students in finding jobs? Do they have opportunities that we could better advertise to humanities students, and/or would they be willing to develop programs for our students? Would our pre-law, pre-health, etc., programs be willing to do sessions with humanities majors? Please research all potential resources on our campus. Include in your report contact information for the appropriate individuals and offices, a clear description of what kinds of support they are willing to provide humanities students at both the graduate and undergraduate level, and any additional information that would help humanities departments better take advantage of existing resources.

- ***Design programming for both undergraduate and graduate students to help them find nonacademic jobs.*** What topics, skills, and/or opportunities should be covered in these programs? How should these programs be structured (a series of hands-on workshops on a certain skill, a panel session on a particular topic, a drop-in resource for resumes, etc.)? Who (on-campus) is available to present or be involved, and what will they do or discuss? What additional off-campus resources should be included? Are there members of the community who could be invited to speak? Are there nationwide experts we should consider getting funding to bring in? Be as specific as possible in the design and content of these programs. You do not need to offer these programs or workshops yourself, but you should create templates for them so that someone else can easily organize them on our campus.
- ***Curate a collection of useful links to articles and other resources on careers in the humanities.*** MOCH will devote a new page on its website to Careers in the Humanities links. We would like to have a place where departments and advisors can direct interested students and their families for information about future employment and the value of a humanities degree. Develop a list of valuable links for this page.
- ***Evaluate your findings and provide recommendations.*** Your report should conclude with a brief evaluation of what you found and your thoughts about where our campus should go from here. How should we proceed in terms of helping our humanities students find employment? What additional resources would help with that effort?

Application instructions:

Anyone interested in this position should send a letter explaining their interest and qualifications and a CV to Deborah Tollefsen at dtollfsn@memphis.edu by 5:00 PM on March 17, 2017. A selection committee will review the applications and make a recommendation to the Dean.