What do I do with a degree in the arts?

No one can make an exhaustive list of all the careers available to someone with a degree in the arts. But we’ve put a few together, to jump-start your thought process. Web site resources listed may not directly provide employment opportunities, but may contain links to other useful sites. Career titles and Web references are broken into broad categories for ease of reference—but don’t limit yourself by only looking at one section. Many of the careers and Web sites in this listing will apply to more than one major. Be creative!

General Web sites & Information


NYFA Source (a comprehensive resource of grants, residencies, space and equipment awards available for artists in all disciplines)
www.nyfa.org

ARCHITECTURE

3-D modeling
Acoustical consultant
Animation consultant
Auditorium, arena, stadium specialist or designer
Building inspector
Children’s environment/space specialist
Code consultant
Construction manager
Estimating consultant
Exhibition designer
Exhibition installer
Facilities coordinator/manager
Forensic architect
Historic preservationist/historic site manager
Housing development specialist
Industrial development planner/designer
Interior designer
Lighting designer
Marketing project director
Model maker
Professor of architecture/design
Project manager
Real estate developer
Retail designer
Scenic designer/theatre set designer
Specifications consultant
Supervisor of operations/educational, healthcare or other facility
Sustainability consultant
Theming designer

WEB SITE RESOURCES

American Institute of Architects
www.aia.org

AEC Job Bank
www.aecjobbank.com

Architecture + International
www.archijobs.com

So you want to be an architect
www.aiapvc.org/want2barch.htm

AIA/NCARB Emerging Professionals Companion
www.epcompanion.org

VISUAL ARTS, ART EDUCATION AND ART HISTORY

Appraiser
Antiquarian book trade
Animator - digital, traditional
Animation director
Archivist
Art auctioneer
Art gallery - director, curator, assistant
Art consultant
Art critic
Art dealer
Art history professor
Art lecturer
Art in embassies program
Art law/intellectual property rights specialist
Art materials testing and development
Art materials demonstrator
Art therapist
Artist’s assistant
Arts administration - state/local arts councils
Arts librarian
Auction house - specialist, public relations, registrar, researcher
Caricaturist
Cartoonist
Ceramicist
Ceramic tile artisan
Character artist
Color consultant
Color manager
Comic book - artist, inker, colorist
Conservator and restorer
Court artist
Cultural arts director - retirement community, resort, hotel, correctional facility
Curator - museum, independent, gallery, corporate art collections, private art collections, national parks arts
Development careers for museums, non-profits - fundraising, public relations, membership
Digital artist
Digital compositor
Digital matte painter
Digital printmaker (giclee)
Diorama artist
Display designer
Educator - K-12, higher education, museums, private workshops, non-profits (parks, state, city, local governmental groups)
Environment artist - 3D
Exhibit designer
Fiber artist
Foundry artist
Framer
Grant writer/analyst - government, educational, non-profit
Historic preservationist/historic site manager
Illustrator - architectural, editorial, fashion, humorous, marine, medical, portrait, technical
Illustration agent
Interior and display design
Jewelry designer
Lighting specialist
Lithographer
Make-up artist
Model maker - traditional, 3D
Modeler - 3D
Mosaicist
Muralist
Museum administrator
Museum guide
Painter
Performance artist
Preparator
Print maker
Public relations - museums, higher education, arts councils
Publishing - art books, art magazines
Registrar - museums, galleries, national parks
Renderer
Retoucher
Rigger - 3D
Set designer
Silversmith
Sculptor
Special effects artist
Storyboard artist
Studio professor
Stylist
Textile designer
Texture artist - 3D
Visual Resources Specialist - colleges, museums, architectural firms

WEB SITE RESOURCES
Artist Help Network (resources on career development/challenges)
www.artisthelpnetwork.com

Artist residencies
www.artistcommunities.org

International artists residencies
www.resarts.org

Publisher of career help books
www.allworth.com

Jobs, art seminars, exhibition opportunities (mostly in NY)
www.16beavergroup.org

New York Women in Communications, Inc
(internships in advertising, public relations, new media, publishing, etc.)
www.nywici.org
IdeaList (internships in non-profits)
www.idealist.org

Art History (artists, museums, galleries, paintings, sculptures, appreciation)
www.arthistory.about.com

College Art Association
www.collegeart.org

Art Career Net
www.artcareer.net

Association for Art History
www.indiana.edu/~aah

Pennsylvania Art Education Association
www.kutztown.edu/paea

Computer Graphics Society
http://forums.cgsociety.org

National Association of Photoshop Professionals
www.photoshopuser.com

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Advertising agency
Advertising display manager
Art consultant
Art director - magazine, design firm, advertising agency
Artist representative
Backdrops - painting and design
Book jacket designer
Computer graphics specialist
Copywriter
Costume designer
Creative director
Customer service representative
Display designer
Designer - freelance, junior, senior, editorial, corporate
Design technology specialist
Design workshop educator
Environmental designer
Exhibit designer
Fashion designer
Fashion illustrator
Film and television graphic artist
Food/product stylist
Illustrator
Lithographer
Location scout
Magazine publishing designer
Model agent
Model maker
Multimedia designer
Packaging designer
Pattern maker (fashion industry)
Photo agent
Photo assistant
Photo lab technician
Photo shoot stylist
Photoshop specialist
Pre-press specialist
Presentation designer
Print broker
Print production coordinator
Print/multimedia designer for fashion industry
Production artist
Production manager
Professor of design
Project manager
Recruiter for art-related fields
Sales/account representative - printers, design firms, paper
Special effects designer
Set designer
Web administrator
Web creative manager
Web designer/developer

WEB SITE RESOURCES
American Institute of Graphic Arts
www.aiga.com

Art Source Digital Media Staffing
www.artsource.com

Communications Arts Magazine
www.commarts.com

Graphic Arts Guild
www.gag.org

Graphic Design USA
www.gdusa.com
MUSIC-RELATED

PERFORMING CAREERS in Music
Orchestral/operatic musician
Military band musician
Jazz musician
Rock/Pop/R&B musician
Singer/songwriter
Musical theater performer
Studio session musician
Liturgical musician
Accompanist

TEACHING CAREERS in Music
Collegiate music professor
Elementary general music teacher
Elementary instrumental music teacher
Middle school general/vocal music teacher
Middle school instrumental music teacher
Secondary choral teacher
Secondary instrumental teacher
Private studio instructor

BUSINESS CAREERS in Music
Artist representative/manager
Arts administrator/manager
Booking agent
Concert promoter
Disc jockey
Entertainment lawyer
Instrument maker
Instrument repairer
Music critic
Music journalist
Music librarian
Music publisher
Recording engineer
Record producer
Music retailer
Piano tuner
Radio station manager
Radio station music director
Sound technician

COMPOSING AND/OR CONDUCTING CAREERS
Composer
Arranger
Orchestrator
Lyricist
Music copyist
Orchestral/operatic conductor
Band/military conductor
Musical theater conductor
Liturgical conductor

MUSIC HISTORY
Audio producer
Music composer
Music librarian
Music technology specialist
Multimedia specialist
Professor of musicology

MISCELLANEOUS
Music therapist
Musicologist

WEB SITE RESOURCES
American Music Therapy Organization
www.musictherapy.org
American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers
www.ascap.org
American Symphony Orchestra League
www.symphony.org
MENC: The National Association for Music Education
www.menc.org
Music Library Association
www.musiclibraryassoc.org

International Association for Music Libraries
www.iaml.info

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
www.pMEA.net

International Association for Jazz Education
www.iaje.org

The American Choral Directors Association
www.acdaonline.org

American String Teachers and National School Orchestra Associations
www.astaweb.com

Music Teachers National Association
www.mtna.org/index1.htm

PHOTOGRAPHY

Advertising photographer
Aerial photographer
Architectural photographer
Children’s photographer
Commercial photographer
Digital photographer
Documentary photographer
Exhibitor of photography - selling work at art shows
Fashion photographer
Fine art photographer
Film/TV photographer - shooting stills on a television or movie set
Food photographer
Magazine photographer
Medical photographer
Nature photographer
Nautical photographer
Photo illustrator
Photographic printer
Photographer agent
Photography assistant
Photojournalist
Portrait photographer
Professor of photography
Sports photographer
Stock photographer
Underwater photographer
Wedding photographer

WEB SITE RESOURCES
American Society of Media Photographers
www.asmp.org
Discussions on photography business issues
www.editorialphoto.com
National Association of Photoshop Professionals
www.photoshopuser.com
Photo District News magazine
www.pdnonline.com
Pricing/selling stock photography (software)
www.fotoquote.com

LANDSCAPE, ENVIRONMENTAL, BUILDING AND RELATED FIELDS
Community planner
Construction sales/marketing
Design/build contractor
Environmental planner
Executive director - local government, private firm, non-profit organization (e.g. land trust)
Field representative (e.g. nature conservancy)
Gaming (casino) industry - various opportunities (e.g. interior design)
Garden center manager
GIS specialist/analyst
Golf course designer
Historic preservation consultant
Land development specialist
Landscape designer
Nursery manager
Park superintendent
Planning director - local government, private firm, non-profit organization (e.g. land trust)
Open space planner/coordiantor
Principal investigator - research (e.g. archaeological)
Project manager - local government, private firm, non-profit organization (e.g. land trust)
Professor
Real estate development manager
Regional recreation & park advisor (e.g. state agency)
Resort and entertainment planner
Sales representative (e.g. landscape Materials)
Site designer
Site development manager
Transportation planner

WEB SITE RESOURCES

PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
www.dcnr.state.pa.us

PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
www.dep.state.pa.us

U.S. EPA Tools & Resources Database
www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/database.htm

Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Management
www.state.ma.us/dem/dem.htm

Environmental Protection Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program
www.epa.gov/correctiveaction

Pennsylvania Game Commission
http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PGC/wildlife.htm

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov

ORGANIZATIONS

American Society of Landscape Architects
www.asla.org

American Planning Association
www.planningpa.org

Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
www.gpcc.com

Center City District of Philadelphia
www.centercityphila.org
Greenworks Television
www.greenworks.tv/pec

Libertynet Philadelphia
www.libertynet.com

Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter of ASLA
www.landscapearchitects.org

Rural Planning/Orton Family Foundation
www.orton.org

Natural Lands Trust
www.natlands.org

Green Communities
www.epa.gov/greenkit

Wildlands Conservancy
www.wildlandspa.org

Trust for Public Land
www.tpl.org

Center for Watershed Protection
www.cwp.org

Keystone Community Network
www.kcnet.org

Save Our Streams
www.saveourstreams.org

THEATRE

Accompanist
Actor
Announcer
Audio recording - books, customer service lines
Casting agent
Choreographer
Costume design
Dance instructor
Dancer
Dialect instructor
Director
Electrician
Events manager
Facilities manager - theatre, auditorium, arena, etc.
Fight choreographer
Freelance workshop presenter
Hair and makeup artist
Lighting designer
Location scout
Movement instructor
Multimedia specialist
Musical theatre performer
Performing arts director - educational, non-profit, commercial settings
Production designer
Property master
Public relations - theatre school, theatre company, theatre venue
Script writer - film, television, stage
Set design and construction
Sound specialist
Special effects manager
Stage manager
Talent agent/artist management
Technical theatre specialist
Theatre critic
Theatre librarian
Theatre journalist
Theatre manager
Voice instructor
Voice-over artist

WEB SITE RESOURCES

Entertainment Design magazine
www.entertainmentdesignmag.com

Stage-Directions
www.stage-directions.com

University/Resident Theatre Association
www.urta.com

U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.
www.usitt.org