



## Colleges Should Be More Than Just Vocational Schools

## 大学不应该仅仅是职业学校

Date: Apr. 2, 2023

523 Words

Is a university a university without the **liberal arts**? Marymount University seems to think so. The institution's **trustees** voted **unanimously** in February to **eliminate** majors in mathematics, art, English, history and philosophy, among other fields.

没有文科的大学还能叫大学吗？玛丽蒙特大学似乎给出了肯定的答案。今年2月，该大学的托管人一致投票取消了数学、艺术、英语、历史和哲学等领域的专业。

It is the latest in a very long line of defeats for the liberal arts. From 2013 to 2016, across the United States, 651 foreign language programs were closed, and majors in **classics**, the arts and religion have frequently been eliminated or, at larger schools, **shrunk**. The trend extends from small private schools like Marymount to the Ivy League and major public universities and shows no sign of stopping.

这是文科一系列溃败中的最新一次。从2013年到2016年，全美有651个外语课程停课，古典文化、艺术和宗教专业经常被取消，在规模较大的学校里这些专业减少。这一趋势从玛丽蒙特这样的小型私立学校蔓延到常春藤盟校和主要公立大学，并且没有停止的迹象。

The steady **disinvestment** in the liberal arts risks turning America's universities into vocational schools narrowly focused on professional training. Increasingly, they have **robust** programs in subjects like business, nursing and computer science but less and less funding for and focus on departments of history, literature, philosophy, mathematics and **theology**.

对文科的持续撤资有可能把美国的大学变成狭隘地专注于专业培训

**liberal arts** 大学文科（如文学、语言、历史、哲学等，有别于技术及职业学科）

**trustee** [trʌˈsti:] *n.* 受托人，托管人

**unanimously** [juˈnænɪməsli] *adv.* 一致地 | The board unanimously approved the project last week. 董事会上周一致同意批准了这个项目。

**eliminate** [ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt] *v.* 清除，消除；淘汰 | The Sex Discrimination Act has not eliminated discrimination in employment. 《反性别歧视法》并未根除工作中的歧视。

**classics** *n.* （复数名词）古典文化（指古罗马和古希腊的语言、文学及历史）

**shrink** [rɪŋk] *v.* 收缩，减少；缩水；畏缩，退缩 | The market for their products is shrinking. 市场对他们的产品的需求在减少。

**disinvestment** [ˌdɪsmɪˈvestmənt] *n.* 减少投资，抽回投资

**robust** [rəʊˈbʌst] *adj.* 强健的，强壮的；结实的；强劲的，富有活力的；坚定的 | robust economic growth 强劲的经济增长

**theology** [θiˈɑːlədʒi] *n.* 神学，宗教教学

职业学校。大学越来越多地在商科、护理和计算机科学等学科开设健全的课程，但对历史、文学、哲学、数学和神学等院系的资助和关注则越来越少。

Students do not select majors and courses **in a vacuum**. Their choices are downstream of a cultural and political discourse that actively discourages engagement with the humanities. For decades — and particularly since the 2008 **recession** — politicians in both parties have **mounted** a **strident** campaign against government funding for the liberal arts. They express a growing **disdain** for any courses not explicitly tailored to the job market and outright contempt for the role the liberal-arts-focused university has played in American society.

学生们对专业和课程的选择并非脱离实际。他们的选择受到极力劝阻接触人文学科的文化和政治话语的影响。几十年来，尤其是自 2008 年经济衰退以来，美国两党政客都发起运动，强烈反对政府为文科提供资金。他们日益鄙视任何不是明确针对就业市场开设的课程，并公开蔑视以文科为主的大学在美国社会中所扮演的角色。

Federal funding reflects those priorities. The National **Endowment** for the Humanities' budget in 2022 was just \$180 million. The National Science Foundation's budget was about 50 times as large, having nearly doubled within two decades.

联邦资金反映了这些优先次序。美国国家人文基金会 2022 年的预算只有 1.8 亿美元。美国国家科学基金会的预算大约是它的 50 倍，在过去 20 年内几乎翻了一番。

What were students meant to think? As the cost of higher education rose, **substantially outpacing** inflation since 1990, students followed funding — and what politicians repeatedly said about employability — into fields like business and computer science. Even majors in mathematics were hit by the focus on employability.

学生应该怎么想？自 1990 年以来，随着高等教育成本上升，远远超过  
关注公众号：拾点外刊 免费下载电子版 附音频

**in a vacuum** 与世隔绝，脱离实际 | This kind of decision cannot ever be made in a vacuum. 这种决定绝不能脱离实际。

**recession** [rɪˈseʃn] *n.* 经济衰退 | The economy is in deep recession. 经济正处于严重的衰退之中。

**mount** [maʊnt] *v.* 准备，安排，组织开展；增加；攀登 | mount a protest/campaign/an exhibition 发起抗议/运动；举办展览

**strident** ['straɪdnt] *adj.* 强硬的；咄咄逼人的；刺耳的 | strident criticism 猛烈的抨击

**disdain** [dɪsˈdeɪn] *n./v.* 鄙视，蔑视 | She watched me with disdain. 她鄙视地看着我。

**explicitly** [ɪkˈsplɪsɪtli] *adv.* 明确地 | The report states explicitly that the system was to blame. 报告明确指出问题出在制度上。

**tailor ... to/for ...** 针对……而做，针对……而修改 | All our courses can be tailored to the needs of individuals. 我们所有的课程都可以根据个人需要而开设。

**outright** ['aʊtraɪt] *adj.* 完全的，彻底的；公开的，直率的 *adv.* 公开地；彻底地 | There was outright opposition to the plan. 该计划遭到公开直接反对。

**contempt** [kənˈtempt] *n.* 蔑视，鄙视 | I have nothing but contempt for their ridiculous opinions. 我对他们那些荒谬的看法只有看不起。

了通货膨胀的速度，学生们跟随着资金的流向，以及政客们反复提到的就业能力，进入了商业和计算机科学等领域。即使是数学专业也受到了以就业能力为本的影响。

Universities took note and began **culling**. One recent study showed that history **faculty** across 28 Midwestern universities had dropped by almost 30 percent in roughly the past decade. Classics programs were often simply eliminated.

大学注意到了这一点，开始砍掉部分专业。最近的一项研究显示，美国中西部 28 所大学的历史教师人数在过去大约 10 年里减少了近 30%。古典文化课程经常被直接取消。

Never mind that neither politicians nor students seem to have a particularly good idea of which college majors will actually prepare young people for the work force. History majors had a lower unemployment rate than economics, business management or communications majors, and their salaries barely **lag behind** in those fields, according to a recent study. Art history majors do just fine, too, with strong **projected** job growth in the next decade. And despite the **sneers**, those with bachelor's degrees in philosophy have an average salary around \$76,000, according to PayScale. But this is a **grim** and narrow view of the purpose of higher education, merely as a tool to train workers as replaceable **cogs** in America's economic machine, to generate **raw** material for its largest companies.

政客和学生似乎都不太清楚哪些大学专业能真正让年轻人为工作做好准备，这也无妨。最近的一项研究显示，历史专业的失业率低于经济学、工商管理或传播学专业，历史专业学生的工资也不比这些专业差。艺术史专业的情况也不错，未来十年的就业增长预计会很强劲。尽管受到嘲笑，但根据薪水调查公司 PayScale 的数据，拥有哲学学士学位的人的平均工资约为 7.6 万美元。但上面所述是关于高等教育目的的一种悲观而狭隘的看法，仅仅把大学看作一种工具，用来培训工人，让他们成为美国经济机器中可以替换的齿轮，为美国最大的公司生产原材料。

Higher education, with broad study in the liberal arts, is

关注公众号：拾点外刊 免费下载电子版 附音频

**endowment** [in'daʊmənt] *n.* 捐款，资助；天赋，天资

**substantially** [səb'stænʃəli] *adv.* 非常，大大地；大体上，总的来说 | The costs have increased substantially. 成本大大提高了。

**outpace** [ˌaʊt'peɪs] *v.* 超过，比……快 | Demand is outpacing production. 需求正在超过生产。

**cull** [kʌl] *v.* 选出，挑选，采集；部份捕杀，宰杀（为防止动物种群量过多而杀掉其中一定数量）

**faculty** ['fæklti] *n.* （高等院校中院系、系的）全体教师；才能，能力

**lag behind** 落后 | Their software tends to lag behind other producers. 他们的软件开发往往落后于其他开发商。

**project** ['prɔ:dʒekt] *v.* 预测，预计；规划；投影 | The unemployment rate has been projected to fall. 据预测失业率将下降。

**sneer** [sniə] *n.* 嘲笑，讥讽 | She sneered at Tom's musical tastes. 她嘲笑汤姆的音乐品位。

**grim** [grɪm] *adj.* 令人沮丧的，令人难以接受的；阴森的，凄凉的；严肃的，坚定的 | The outlook is pretty grim. 前景令人甚感忧虑。

**cog** [kɒɡ] *n.* 齿轮；（大机构中的）小人物 | a cog in the machine/wheel （大机构中的）无足轻重的人物，小人物

**raw** [rɔ:] *adj.* 未经加工的；未经处理的，原始的；生的；工作生疏的，

meant to create not merely good workers but also good citizens. Learning in many different forms of knowledge teaches the humility necessary to accept other points of view in a **pluralistic** and increasingly globalized society.

高等教育，包括广泛的文科研究，不仅是为了培养优秀的工人，也是为了培养优秀的公民。在一个多元化和日益全球化的社会中，学习各种不同形式的知识能教会我们谦逊，这对接受其他观点是非常有必要的。

无经验的 | We import raw materials and energy and export mainly industrial products. 我们进口原材料和能源，主要出口工业产品。

**pluralistic** [ˌplɒrəˈlɪstɪk] *adj.* 多元性的，多元化的 | Our objective is a free, open and pluralistic society. 我们的目标是建立一个自由、开放和多元化的社会。

## ➤ 脉络梳理

- Para. 1-2 描述现状：越来越多的高校取消文科专业
- Para. 3 指出美国大学越来越重视有利于就业的商科等专业，对文科的资助和关注越来越少
- Para. 4-7 分析原因：政客反对政府为文科提供资金，文科基金大幅低于科学基金，学生更多地流向商业和计算机等专业，大学因此减少文科课程
- Para. 8 指出文科类专业的就业情况实际上并不差，但仅以就业情况评价专业是对高等教育的贬低
- Para. 9 指出高等教育的目的是培养优秀的公民，学习包括文科在内的不同知识非常有必要

## ➤ 长难句拆解

主语+谓语+宾语 1      后置定语，修饰 disdain      后置定语，修饰 courses

They express a growing disdain for any courses not explicitly tailored to the job market

宾语 2      后置定语，修饰 contempt      定语从句，修饰 role

and outright contempt for the role the liberal-arts-focused university has played in American society.