

HUMANITIES: ENHANCING THE EXPERIENCE OF PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER EDUCATION

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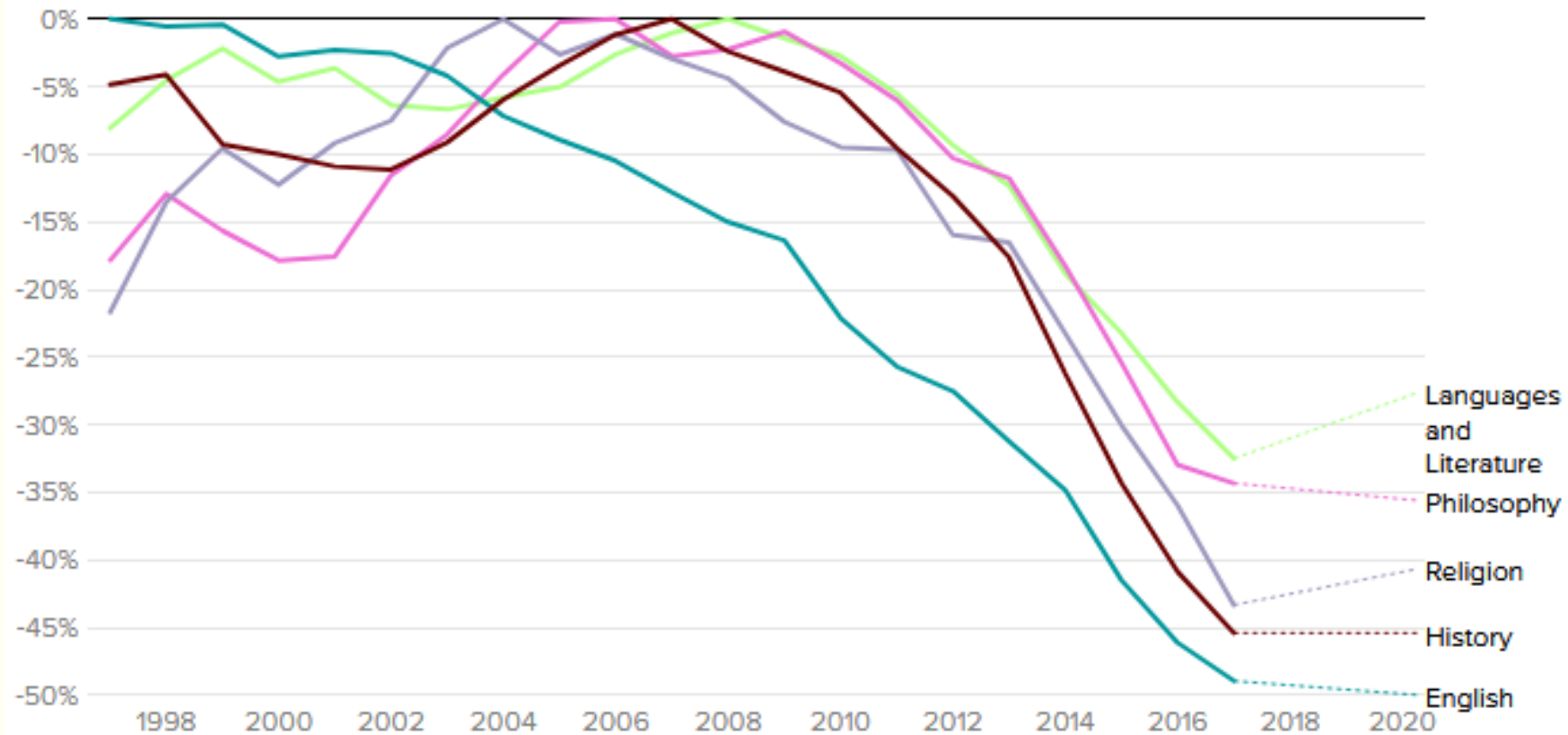


The Humanities Today in Higher Education

- There has been a consistent shift towards STEM and business in higher education.
- Since the 2008 crisis, the shift has become more pronounced.
- Add your third bullet point here

Decline of Humanities Majors

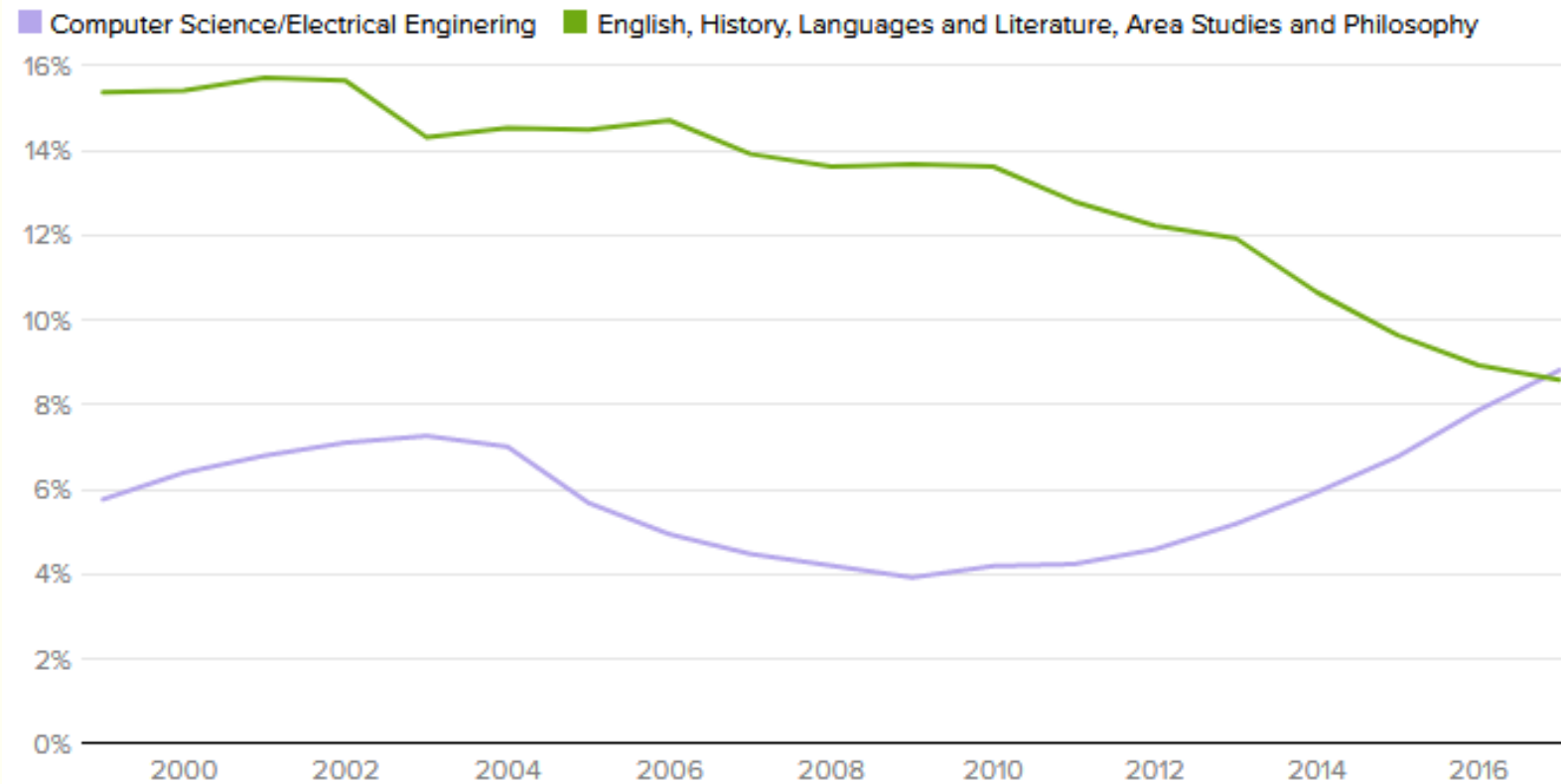
Change in Share of Humanities Majors in All BAs at U.S. Institutions, Relative to Peak



Source: [IPEDS, preliminary for 2017](#) • [Get the data](#) • [Embed](#)

Change in Focus in Elite Universities

Share of Computer Science and Select Humanities Degrees at Elite Universities



Source: IPEDS, using top 30 research universities per US News & World Report • [Get the data](#) • [Embed](#)

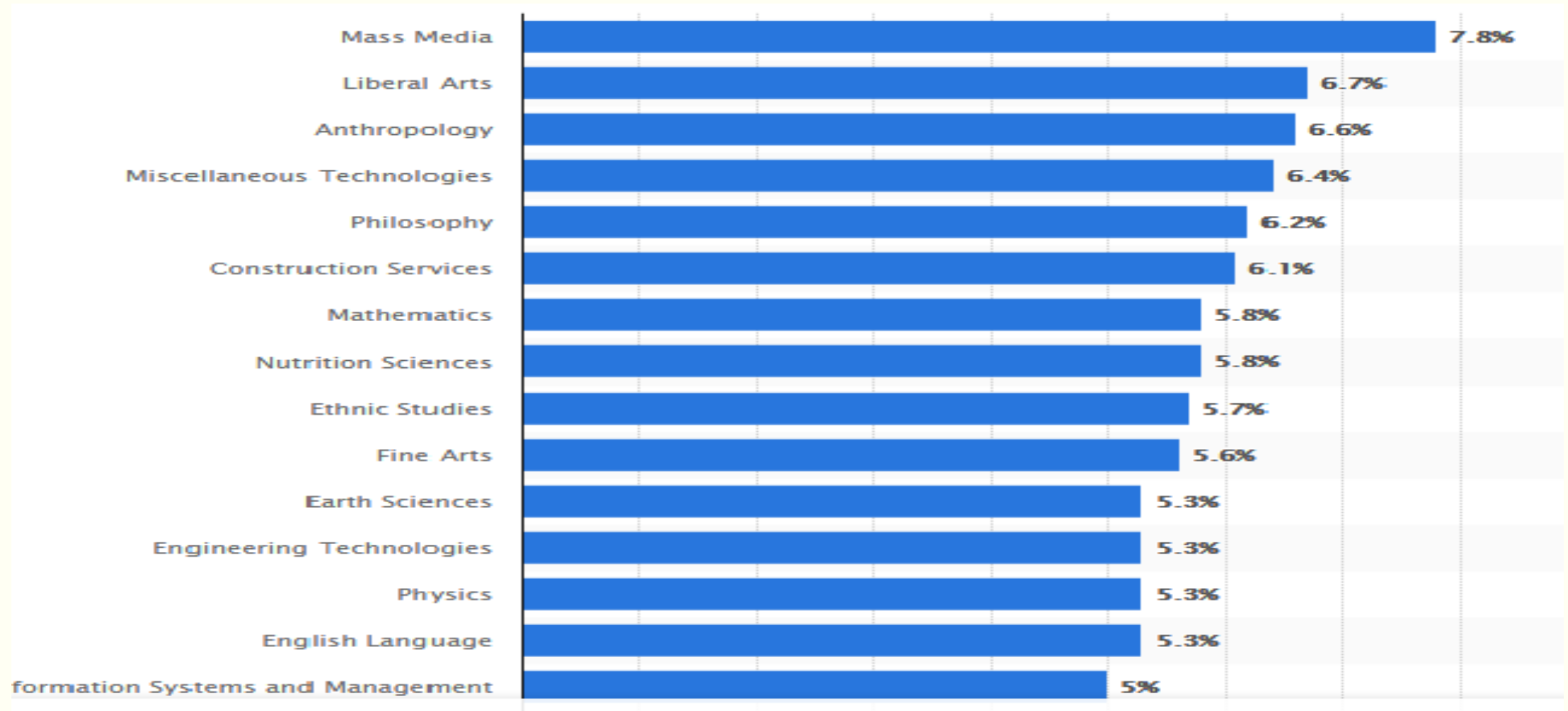
The Atlantic

All About Perception

“Students aren’t fleeing degrees with poor job prospects. They’re fleeing humanities and related fields specifically because they *think* they have poor job prospects”

(Schmidt, 2018).

Unemployment of Recent Graduates by Major: 2019 (Statista, 2019)



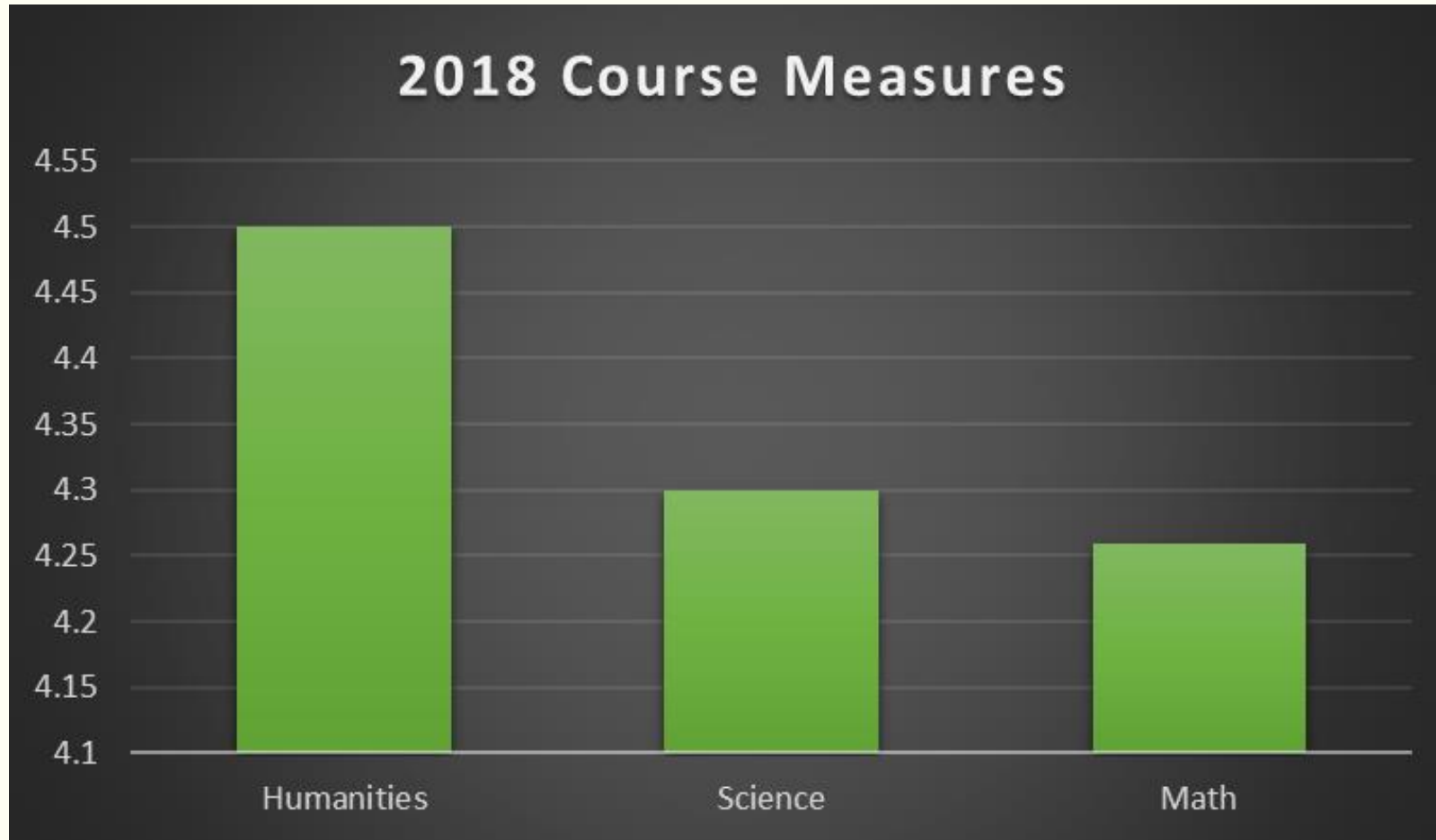
Double Majors? (Lewington, 2017)

- 10.1% of graduates had double majors
- Mean salary for double major: \$81,718
- Mean salary for single major: \$78,369
- 72.2% of double majors found full time work.
- 71.8% of single majors found full time work.

Humanities Requirements

- The benefits of humanities have long been established for teaching critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and creativity.
- Do STEM and business students “like” humanities courses?
- Purdue University Global does not offer a degree in the humanities field but requires humanities courses. What do professional and career students say about our humanities courses?

Course Measures (Scale of 1-5)



Student Feedback

- “I liked how I was able to apply many of the situations in this class to my personal life and career. I was able to use the subjects taught in my workplace immediately.” (Purdue University Global ethics student)
- “I really enjoyed that this class was truly engaged in seminars, possible more so than any other class that I have had here at Purdue Global University. The course content always provided enough information in regards to having a good understanding of what was being discussed each individual week. The workload was enough but not too much and I truly have had my eyes opened to a world that I have never truly thought about before. There are no improvements that I can come up with that might make this class any better.” (Purdue University Global ethics student)
- humanities education “lets me be on the same playing field, as far as everybody else goes, in conversations” and has helped improve his networking skills. (Northern Virginia Community College computer science student)
- “It’s really important for technology professionals to think about ethics in everything they do,” he said, “because technology is changing the world so rapidly. If you don’t think about it ethically, you can cause harm, so understanding the impact you might have and thinking through that is critical for all technology professionals.” (Georgetown University computer science graduate).

Future of Humanities: Integration

- New approaches in STEM and liberal arts education involves integrating elements of both in each other's curriculum.
- Cornell University received a \$20 million donation for new technology and humanities integration.

“Curricula that fully integrates the scientific and humanistic disciplines may provide new possibilities not only for teaching and learning, but for scholarship and research as well. Such curricula might prove the best argument for the primacy and adaptability of STEM and the humanities, and make a case for policy that reflects their equal value” (Kao, 2017, p. 20)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

The Integration of the Humanities and Arts with Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Higher Education: Branches from the Same Tree (2018)

“This committee has concluded that the available evidence is sufficient to urge support for courses and programs that integrate the arts and humanities with STEMM in higher education” (p.177).

National Academy of Sciences Recommendations (Two of Sixteen)

1. This committee has concluded that the available evidence is sufficient to urge the support and evaluation of courses and programs that integrate the arts and humanities with the natural sciences, social sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine in higher education.
2. Students should insist on, and institutions should provide, an academic experience that prepares them for life, work, and citizenship in the twenty-first century by strengthening their critical thinking, communications skills, ability to work well in teams, content mastery, motivation, and engagement with learning.

What are Some Ideas for Integration?

- Assess humanities disciplines across curriculum



Integrate technology in humanities courses.

- Require use of video or other software for assignments
- Integrate statistics in teaching sociology or history.

Use works from humanities (literature, philosophy, history) to teach concepts in STEM.

- Use Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to study the ethics of artificial intelligence.

References

Alumni donate \$20M for new tech, humanities integration initiative. (2017, Oct 19). *University Wire* Retrieved from <https://proxy.cecylibrary.com/login?url=https://search-proquest-com.proxy.cecylibrary.com/docview/1952364312?accountid=144789>

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
