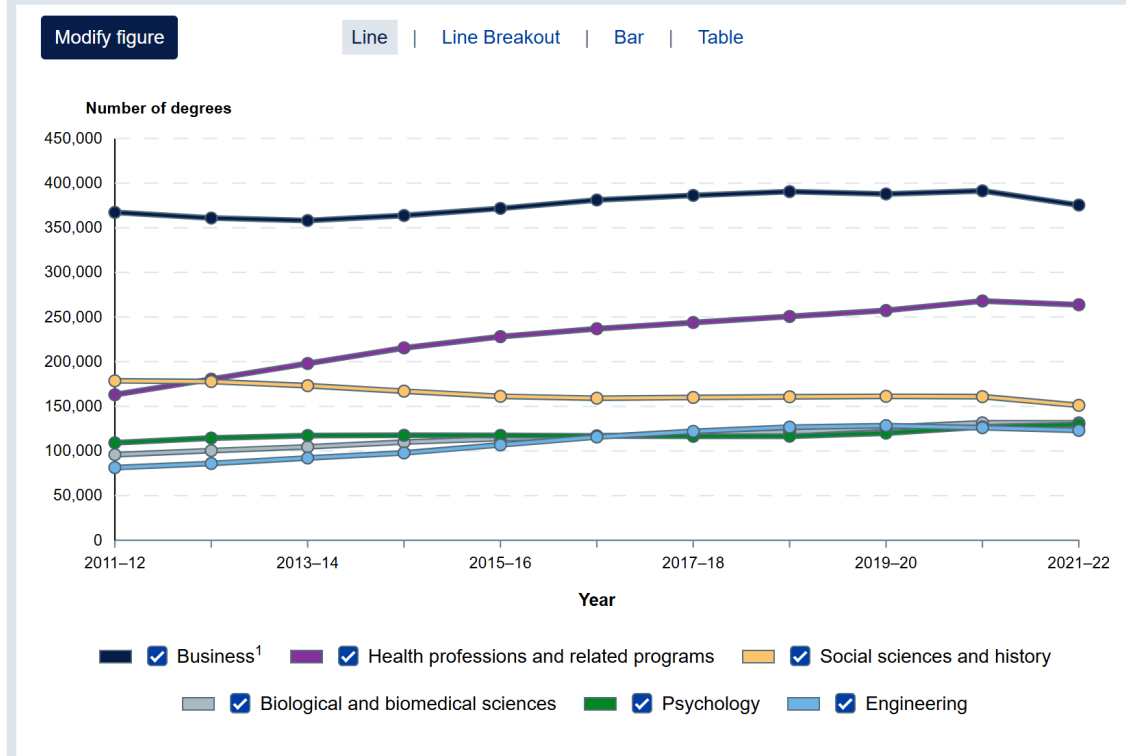


# *REMARKS OF THE SENATE CHAIR*

# Most popular majors in higher education

## Bachelor's Degrees by Field of Study

Figure 4. Number of bachelor's degrees conferred by degree-granting postsecondary institutions in selected fields of study: Academic years 2011–12 through 2021–22



<sup>1</sup> "Business" is defined as business, management, marketing, and related support services, as well as culinary, entertainment, and personal services.

NOTE: Data are for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The fields shown are the six programs in which the largest number of bachelor's degrees were conferred in 2021–22. Data are for postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs and U.S. service academies. Data in this figure are based on the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. Figures are plotted based on unrounded data.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Completions component, Fall 2012 through Fall 2021 (final data) and Fall 2022 (provisional data). See *Digest of Education Statistics 2023*, table 322.10; and *Digest of Education Statistics 2022*, table 322.10.

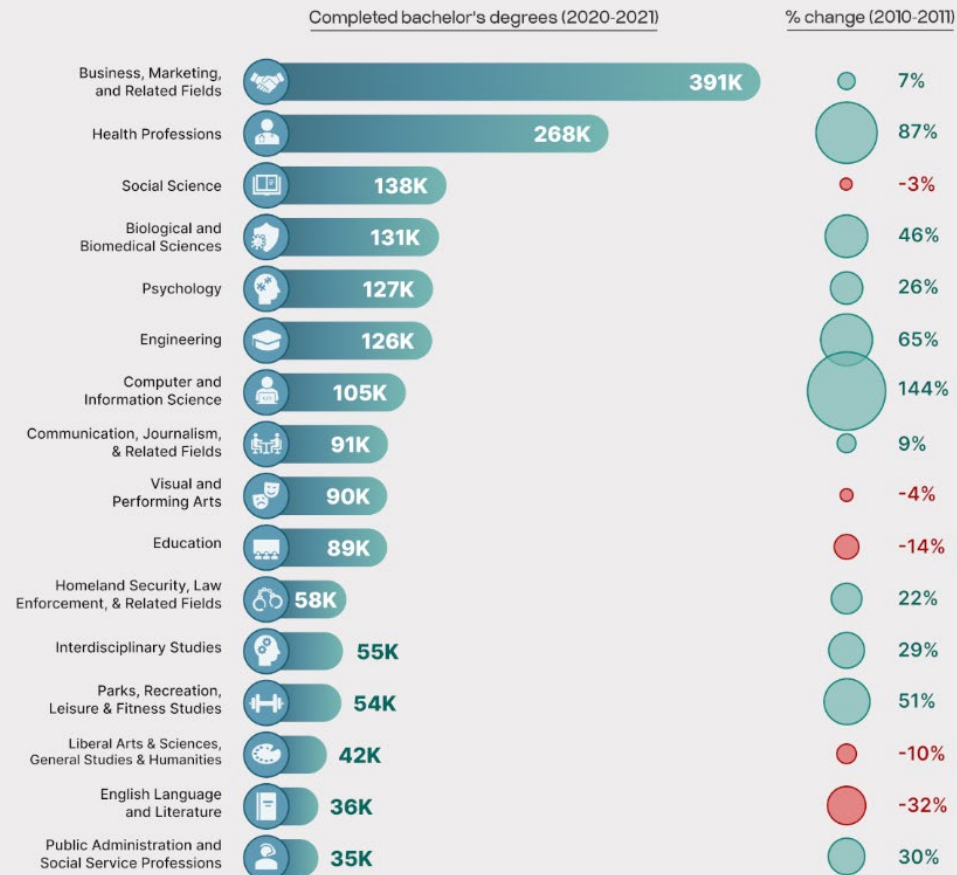
# Growing and declining majors

## Education

### U.S. GROWING & DECLINING UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

This graph shows the number of college bachelor's degrees completed in the 2020-2021 academic year and the ten-year change.

Majors with less than 30,000 completed degrees are excluded.



Design: Kashish Rastogi

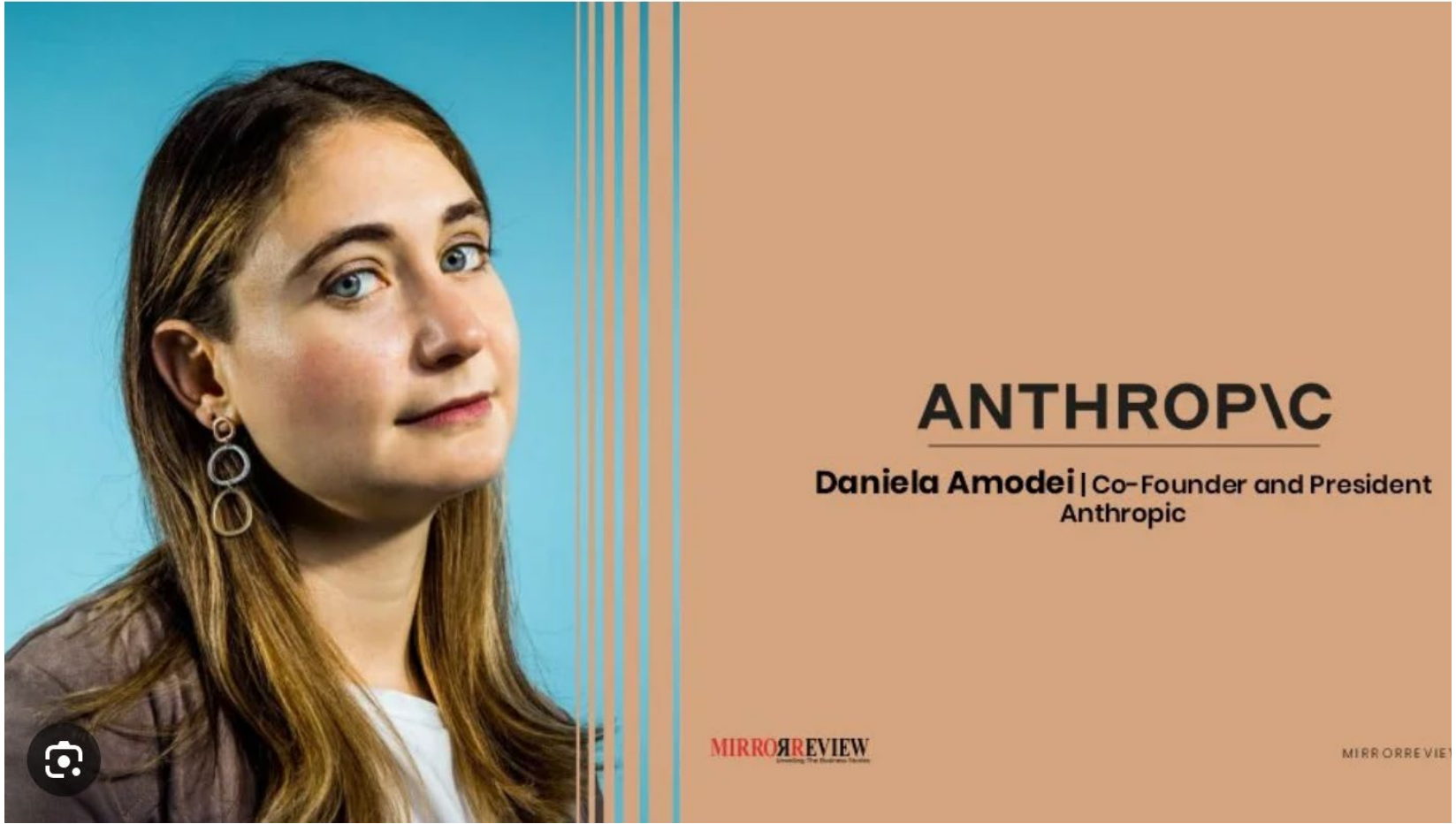
Source: National Center for Education Statistics

# *Death of Humanities—Greatly Exaggerated?*

- In 2023, first-year Berkeley students majoring in the arts and humanities — English, history, languages, philosophy and media studies — was up 121% over the previous year
- University of Arizona: 76% increase in humanities majors since 2018
  - "applied humanities": a new, fast-growing department that includes programs in business administration, fashion studies, game studies and public health.
- Virginia Tech: executive education program that imparts leadership skills to mid-career managers using humanities

Axios, 2023; Hechniger Report 2025

- Value: critical thinking, communication, analysis of complex data and ideas



# *STEM and the Humanities: A False Dichotomy*

- “We should be careful not to let interdisciplinary jockeying make us cling to what we know best. Everything looks like a nail when you have a hammer, as the saying goes. Similarly, at how great a disadvantage might we put ourselves—and the world—if we force our minds to approach all problems the same way?”
  - JM Olejarz

# *Finally, a request*

- Please stay for the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee:
  - Purdue Global and Purdue University's Online and Residential Graduate Programs Report

# ***THANK YOU!***

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