What can I do With a Major in . . .?

What Can I do With a Major in Philosophy?

Philosophy is the study of issues, ideas, and truths, which leads to a search for an understanding of people and the world that surrounds them. Philosophers apply critical thinking to questions of values and beliefs in order to understand reality, clarify the nature of interactions between individuals and society, and come to terms with the problems of existence and ultimate values. Logic, Ethics, Metaphysics, and Epistemology are the major tenants of philosophy.

Philosophy is the study of past philosophers and ideologies. The study of Philosophy develops our ability to make sense of ourselves and our surroundings. Students engage in the examination of their own beliefs as they embark on what can sometimes be a very personal journey. Critical thinking, communication, argument, design/planning, as well as research and investigations are skills that a graduate of philosophy would have honed. In addition, information management and supervision skills are also developed.

While no career title of ‘Philosopher’ exists, a variety of career options are open to graduates with a Philosophy degree. Undergraduates who obtain a degree in Philosophy have many skills to utilize and many fields to apply them in. This includes, but is not limited to, Administration and or Management, Business, Computer Science, Information Technology, Government, Journalism, Public Sector/Not for Profit, Publishing and/or Writing, or Pre-Professional Training. Most occupations that are directly related to the degree are in the teaching and research professions. To be employed in these fields you will require a PhD.

Careers in Philosophy

The occupations noted below may be directly or indirectly related to Philosophy. Some of these careers may require additional education beyond a Bachelor’s Degree.

Government & Law
- Ambassador
- City Solicitor
- Conflict Resolution Specialist
- Consumer Protection Advocate
- Criminal Justice Programs Coordinator
- Diplomat
- Foreign Service Officer
- Government Administrator

Immigrating Officer
Legal Researcher
International Relations Specialist
Intelligence/Secret Service Officer
Judicial Clerk
Labour Relations Specialist
Lawyer
Legal Assistant
Legislative Assistant
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Member of the Legislative Assembly
Member of Parliament
Mediation Attorney
Officer in Armed forces
Paralegal
Policy Analyst
Policy & Planning Consultant
Public Administrator
Public Information Officer
Public Health Officer
Security Officer
Social Worker
Speech Writer
United Nations Official

Education
Admissions Officer
Affirmative Action Officer
Archivist
Community Development Liaison Officer
Court Liaison
Editor
Essayist
Experiential Educator
Guidance Counsellor
Human Services Coordinator
Librarian
Philosophy Professor
Provost
Psychologist
Public School Administrator
Research Assistant
Residence Director
Teacher
Technical Writer
Therapist
Youth Counsellor

Business & Industry
Activist
Administrative Assistant
Advertising Executive
Affirmative Action Officer
Aid Worker

Arbitrator
Bank Employee
Biomedical Ethics Researcher
Business Ethics Counsellor
Business Ethics Mediator
Campus Minister
Campus Religious Coordinator
Case Worker
Chaplain
Child Welfare Worker
Church Camp Director
Commercial Designer
Community Organizer
Computer Programmer
Computer Systems Analyst
Consultant
Consumer Advocate
Consumer Relations Representative
Copy Editor
Criminologist
Economist
Editorial Assistant
Employee Relations Specialist
Ethical Consultant
Expert Systems Designer
Film Editor
Foreign Correspondent
Freelance Writer
Fundraiser
Genetic Counsellor
Graphic Artist
Human Resources Manager
Information Broker
Journalist
Layout Editor
Lobbyist
Marketing Researcher
Magazine editor
Media Analyst
Minister
Minister of Music
Missionary
Negotiator
Non-profit Administrator
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Non-Profit/Religious Personnel Manager
Personnel Recruiter
Priest
Public Relations Director
Public Relations Specialist
Publisher
Sales Representative
 Salvation Army Worker
Secretary
Seminarian Administrator
Seminarian Guidance Counsellor
Technical Illustrator
Technical Writer
writer/Claims Adjuster
ants Administrator
CA/YWCA Worker
Youth Minister

& Entertainment
Actor
Animator
Art Appraiser
Art Auctioneer
Art Conservation
Arts Consultant
Art Critic
Art Director
Artist
vestment Specialist
rt Law Specialist
rt Representative
Art Therapist
Audio Visual Production Specialist
Author
Book Critic
Book Illustrator
Cartoonist
Cataloguer
Colour Expert
Costume Designer
Fashion Designer
Film Critic
Film Director

Furniture Designer
Graphic Designer
Greeting Card Illustrator
Independent Producer
Interior Design
Museum Curator
Poet
Photographer
Photojournalist
Set Designer
Textile Designer
Writer

Other
Accountant
Anthropologist
Business Administrator
Collaborator
Copy Writer
Corporate Trainer
Corrections Officer
Credit Analyst
Cryptanalyst
Customer Relations Representative
Customer Service Representative
Financial Consultant
Hospital Administrator

Investment Counsellor
Physician
Psychiatrist
Realtor
Training Instructor
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Travel Consultant
Management Analyst
Management Trainee
Marketing Research Analyst
Political Scientist
Credit Manager
Financial Planner

Forensic Investigator
Historian
Insurance Agent Personnel Manager
Investment Banker Management

Philosophy Sites

Canadian Jacques Maritain Association
https://sites.google.com/site/cjma4acjm/home

Canadian Philosophical Association (Available in French)

Canadian Society for Aesthetics
http://www.csa-sce.ca/

Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics
http://www.cshpm.org/

Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science
http://www.yorku.ca/cshps1/

Canadian Society for Philosophical Practice
http://www.philosophicalpractice.ca/

Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (Available in French)
http://www.csspe.ca/

Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy
http://cswip.ca/

The Society for Women in Philosophy Job Announcements
What can I do With a Major in . . .?

http://cswip.ca/index.php/jobs/

Philosophical Services
http://philosophical-services.com/

The Center for Philosophy
http://www.jnu.ac.in/Academics/Schools/SchoolOfSocialSciences/PhilosophyCentre.htm

Philosophy Resources Online
http://www.erraticimpact.com/

Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP)
http://www.uh.edu/~cfreelan/SWIP/

American Philosophy Association
http://www.udel.edu/apa/

The Window – philosophy on the Internet
http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/phil/philo

The Wadsworth Philosophy Shopper
http://philosophy.wadsworth.com/

Other Philosophy Sites
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/main/tealea/arts/philosophy/usefulwebsites/

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Philosophy Now…jobs in philosophy
http://www.epistemelinks.com/Main/MainJob.asp

Philosophy Jobs
http://users.ox.ac.uk/~worc0337/phil_jobs.html

Idealist – The Non-Profit Career Centre

MonsterTRAK
http://www.monstertrak.com

FASS – Philosophy – Careers Information
http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/subjects/phil-rels/philosophy/index.shtml
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UM Dept. of Philosophy – Careers & Career Training For Philosophy  

Philosophy: Careers: MICROMEDEX  
http://www.smu.ca/administration/career/documents/PHILOSOPHY%20101.pdf

SU {Philosophy: Careers}  
http://www.salisbury.edu/schools/fulton/philosophy/whatcan.htm

Philosophy Careers in Canada  
http://www.universityaffairs.ca/philosophy-makeover.aspx

The Philosophy Career Handbook  
http://www.phil.ufl.edu/ugrad/ugcrhbk.html

[Images of philosophers: Descartes, Thoreau, Aristotle, Socrates, Paine]
What Can I do With a Degree in...?