What is Philosophy Good For?
or: What to tell your Parents if You Want to Major or Minor in Philosophy!

Stephen Breyer
Supreme Court Judge
Philosophy Major

Mary Higgins Clark
Novelist
Philosophy Major

Stephen Colbert
Comedian
Philosophy Major

George Soros
Investor
Philosophy Major

Photo by Harald Dettenborn
Philosophy is “Marketable”

Skills Desired by Many Employers and Careers
* Learning new knowledge and skills
* Analyzing Ideas and Arguments
* Writing clearly and effectively
* Generating new ideas
* Doing complex research and organizing ideas

Skills Philosophy Teaches
* Learning new knowledge and skills
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Careers for Philosophy Majors

* Most employers care about degree, not major...
* Law (law schools love phil majors)
* Business (sales, management, advertising, etc.)
* Non-profits and community service
* Government and education
* Communication (writing, editing, journalism, computer programming, etc.)
* Sciences (with double major)
* Prep for Graduate School (for any of the above)

Midcareer salaries of people with BA degree:
Philosophy is above average ($75,000), and
$10,000 higher than those with business admin
or psychology major

Juan Williams
Journalist
Philosophy Major

Carly Fiorina
Former CEO of GE
Philosophy Major
Philosophy Majors: Best Test Scores!

* LSAT (for law)
  * Better scores than all other humanities majors (and all others except math and physics)
  * Take symbolic logic
* GRE (for graduate school in sciences or humanities)
  * Better *verbal* scores than any major
  * Better *writing* scores than any major
  * Better *quantitative* scores than any humanities major
* GMAT (for business schools)
  * Better than any other humanities major
And don’t forget...

* College is not just about helping you get a better job
* It’s also about helping you lead a better life, making you a well-rounded and educated person
* Philosophical questions are interesting, often fun, and always important:
  * How should I lead my life?
  * What is a just society?
  * What (and whom) should I believe?
  * When are we morally responsible?

Do Steve Martin (Comedian/actor), Susan Sontag (Writer/activist), Arian Foster (NFL player), and Wes Anderson (Filmmaker) live better lives because they were philosophy majors?
Philosophy at Georgia State has a lot to offer you

* All upper-level courses taught by the Department’s 20 Professors and Lecturers, experts in their areas of research
  * One of top Masters programs in the world
* Small classes (typically 15-35) geared towards discussion and learning to think and write well
* Philosophy Major & Phil Major with Pre-law (10 courses); Philosophy Minor & Ethics Minor (5 courses)
* Interdisciplinary—an ideal combination with other majors or minors
* An active undergraduate club, The Philosophers’ Guild
What to do next?

* Take Philosophy 3000: Introductory Seminar in Philosophy next semester!
* Or take another 3000-level philosophy course (e.g., Origins of Western Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Existentialism, Marriage & Family, Moral Problems, Business Ethics)
* Talk with your philosophy teacher, meet with a philosophy advisor
* Check out www.gsu.edu/philosophy
  * Including the “Why Philosophy?” page and …
“Philosophy taught me how to think and react in the real world. It taught me to analyze situations and arguments logically and creatively, and how to take a position on a situation and support it.”

-Madison Olson (BA in Philosophy 2013)

“My finance major helped get my resume on people's desks, but in interviews people wanted to talk more about my philosophy degree. I have yet to meet an employer who doesn't value logic, creativity, and critical thinking, so I would strongly urge anyone studying Philosophy to enter the job market ready to display these assets to potential employers.”

-Jeremy Dollar (BA in Philosophy 2011, now at McKesson Consulting Firm)
Major in a Minute video:

* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsvyBJtFOdg

* http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwphi/12991.html
* https://sites.google.com/site/whystudyphilosophy/