What is Philosophy Good For?

or: What to tell your Parents if You Want to Major or Minor in Philosophy!

Dessa
Singer/ hip hop artist
*Philosophy Major*

Stephen Breyer
Supreme Court Justice
*Philosophy Major*

John Lewis
Congressman/ Activist
*Philosophy Major*

Reid Hoffman
Co-founder of *LinkedIn*
*Philosophy MA*
Some Careers for Philosophy Majors

* Law
* Business (management, sales, advertising, finance, consulting)
* Writing, Editing, Publishing
* Government, Public Policy, Non-Profit Service
* Computer Software, Information Technology
* Healthcare (including Biomedical Ethics and Medical school with pre-med courses)
* Sciences (best with double major)
* Teaching, Art, Film, Design (best with double major)
* Preparation for many Graduate School programs
Philosophy and Career Skills

Skills Desired by Employers

* Critical Thinking
* Communication: written and oral
* Problem solving and Creativity
* Teamwork and Understanding others’ perspectives
* Research and Analysis
* Ethical Reasoning
* Questioning Authority

Skills Philosophy Teaches

* Critical Thinking
* Communication: written and oral
* Problem solving and Creativity
* Teamwork and Understanding others’ perspectives
* Research and Analysis
* Ethical Reasoning
* Questioning Authority
College is also about learning to **Think for Yourself!**

* In a world with endless (mis)information, learn how to *think for yourself* to decide who to trust and to find what is real.
* In a world with chatbots and A.I., learn how to *think for yourself*, to write and communicate your own ideas.
* In a world with increasing polarization, learn how to *think for ourselves* to find common ground for a more just society.

* Philosophy will not tell you *what* to think.
* It will help you learn to *think for yourself*…
* …and to think about the self you want to be.
Mid-Career Salaries of Non-STEM Majors

- Philosophy
- Business Economics
- Marketing
- International Studies
- Fashion Design
- Linguistics
- Political Science
- English Literature
- American Studies
- Speech Communication
- Hotel Management
- Business Administration
- History
- Film Production
- Journalism
- Communication
- Urban Planning
- Religious Studies

Salary ranges:
- $65,000
- $70,000
- $75,000
- $80,000
- $85,000
Average Salaries of GSU alumni 10 years after graduating

See usg.edu/your-future-earnings
Philosophy Majors have Best Test Scores

* **LSAT** (for law school)
  * Better scores than all other majors (tied with Econ)
  * Phil 3820 (Legal Reasoning) and Symbolic Logic (Phil 2500) prepare you for LSAT and other tests, such as...

* **GMAT** (for business schools)
  * Better than any other humanities major

* **MCAT** (for medical school)

* **GRE** (for graduate school in sciences or humanities)
  * Better overall scores than any other majors
Mean LSAT and GMAT Scores by Intended Undergraduate Major

Sources: Michael Nieswiadomy, “LSAT Scores of Economics Majors,” *Journal of Economic Education* 41, no. 3 (Summer 2010): 331–3

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Law School Admission Test
Required by U.S. Law Schools
2007–2008 Tests; Scores range from 120–180

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Average Number of Standard Deviations Above the Mean for the Three Sections of the GRE (2015-2018)

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Data based on seniors and non-enrolled college graduates who tested between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018
Chart made in October 2019 by tomas.bogardus@pepperdine.edu
Philosophy at Georgia State has a lot to offer you

* 3000- & 4000-level courses taught by the Department’s 18 Professors and Lecturers (highly ranked Masters programs in philosophy)
* Small classes (20-45) develop your communication and writing skills
* Philosophy Major: very flexible requirements with 3 possible Clusters:
  * Ethics, Politics & Society
  * Mind, Brain & Knowledge
  * Major Authors & Traditions
* Pre-law Concentration (new course in Legal Reasoning)
* Minor in Law and Ethics or Philosophy Minor (5 courses)
* Interdisciplinary—ideal combination with other majors or minors
* The Philosophers’ Forum, very active undergraduate club
* Scholarships and Awards for majors (e.g., Altman scholarship of $6,000 per year: Apply at GSSP)
What to do next if you are considering Philosophy?

1. Take Phil 2010 Intro to Philosophy or Phil 2030: Intro to Ethics next semester!
   *Both satisfy an Area C requirement.
2. Then take Philosophy 3000 or another 3000-level courses
   *See handout for descriptions

* Talk with me and meet with Eddy Nahmias (undergrad director) enahmias@gsu.edu
* Check out http://philosophy.gsu.edu
“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, now in HR at company in NYC)

“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, worked at McKesson Consulting, now at Microsoft)
What to do next to use Philosophy for your career?

* Study! A high GPA in philosophy sends a **clear signal** to employers that you are hard-working, a good writer, and a quick learner
* Work with professors (and employers) who can be listed as **references**
* Find an **Internship** (and get course credit in Phil 4760!)
* Go to **Career Services** for advisement, internships, job fairs, CV prep, Handshake, Linkedin, etc.: [http://career.gsu.edu/](http://career.gsu.edu/)
* Network with other students and alumni
* Consider **second major or minor** as necessary for your career goals or graduate school
Web links

Department of Philosophy website:
* http://philosophy.gsu.edu/undergraduate/philosophy/
* https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=V85h3HcPt8Y
* https://collegetocareer.gsu.edu/philosophy/

More on what to do with a philosophy major:
* https://sites.google.com/site/whystudyphilosophy/
* http://www.apaonline.org/?page=undergrad_resources
* https://philosophyisagreatmajor.com/
* https://www.apaonline.org/page/undergrad_resources
* https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/07/which-college-degrees-get-the-highest-salaries?fbclid=IwAR0k2dt9S8b3L5a7Q53xbIGolakZ7O2J1XAbZ8STkVcExa48ghFWT6CMxw
INFO SESSION:
WHY MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY?
WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY?

Join us for a discussion with the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Eddy Nahmias, and members of the Philosophy Forum (student group) to discuss the GSU Philosophy Major, including:

- Pre-Law Concentration and new Clusters
- Advising for Spring 2024 and beyond
- Career planning
- Philosophy Forum and other Events
- Any questions you have about the Philosophy major or minors

Thursday, Oct 19th
4:00 PM
25 Park Place
Room 1618
FREE PIZZA!

RSVP