



Career Options in **PHILOSOPHY**

Philosophy is the study of the most fundamental questions that arise in our reflection on ourselves and our place in the natural world. Most students who major in philosophy study it for its intrinsic interest. Nonetheless, relatively few people become professional or academic philosophers. For most of us, our professional lives are spent in other endeavors. Philosophy is the study of central questions of human existence and the attempt to answer such questions through rational investigation -- applying developed techniques of logical reasoning and analysis to observation and experience. Philosophy is considered a branch of the language arts and involves the study of truths or principles underlying all knowledge. Philosophical study involves a continuous attempt to analyze, interpret and logically explain what humans believe, value, and do. While occupations are generally only indirectly linked to the study of philosophy, a number of other disciplines, avocations and leisure time activities offer additional attractions for the interested student. Among the major sub-branches are metaphysics, logic, and axiology. Students who major in philosophy are encouraged to study broadly in all of these areas of philosophy. An undergraduate degree qualifies for entry-level positions in business, non-profit organizations, and government. Graduate studies usually lead to careers in law, ministry, finance, psychology, counseling, diplomacy, and related areas. A Ph.D is required for college/university teaching and research.

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS: Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of occupations related to this major. Specific requirements based on education level for each occupation may vary. For additional information and assistance, please speak with a Career Consultant.

Consultant	Promotion coordinator	Film producer
Public relations specialist	Editor	Publisher
Social worker	Philanthropic organizer	Research analyst
Public policy analyst	Public administrator	Intelligence officer
Foreign service agent	Legislator	Secondary Education Teacher
College Professor/Lecturer	Advertising Executive	Lobbyist
Anthropologist	Arbitrator	HR/Personnel Manager
Archivist	Freelance Writer	Political Scientist
Historian	Public Administrator	Journalist
Psychologist	Judge	Criminologist
Lawyer	Librarian	Industrial relations representative
Insurance Underwriter/Claims Adjuster		Consumer relations representative
Research and development specialist		Foreign diplomacy representative

SAMPLE WORK SETTINGS:

Colleges & Universities	Museums	Foreign Service
Religious Associations	Government Agencies	Social Services
Archive Facilities	Non-Profit Organizations	Business & Industry
Public Relations Firms	Communications/Media	Education

RELATED MAJOR SKILLS & CHARACTERISTICS FOR PHILOSOPHY MAJORS:

Formulate and defend positions	Complex problem solving skills
Critical Thinking	Oral/Written Communications Skills
Concentrate for long periods of time	Organize, conduct and clearly explain research
Proficiency in analytical and synthetic reasoning	Broad background of general knowledge
Command of grammar and vocabulary	Passion and Desire for intellectual growth
Ability to utilize logic to solve problems	Desire for recognition
Desire to influence others	Ability to work independently
Tendency to question and seek answers	Tendency to support beliefs with facts and logic
Ability to persuade others	Deductive/Inductive Reasoning

SAMPLE GW RESOURCES

GW CAREER CENTER RESOURCES: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

GWork: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

Career Search: <http://www.careersearch.net/gwu>

GW DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION: <http://www.gwu.edu/~philosop>

Undergraduates: <http://www.gwu.edu/~philosop/BASPrograms.html>

Graduates: <http://www.gwu.edu/~philosop/MASPrograms.html>

SAMPLE WEBSITES:

Career Planning Resources:

The Window - philosophy on the Internet <http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/phil/phil>

About.com - philosophy <http://www.philosophy.about.com/homework/philosophy/msubstudents.htm>

The Wadsworth Philosophy Shoppe <http://philosophy.wadsworth.com/>

Internet Nonprofit Center* <http://www.nonprofits.org/>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/>

Job Search Resources:

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

Idealist - The Non-Profit Career Center* <http://www.idealists.org/career.html>

Professional Organizations & Associations:

SWIP: The Society for Women in Philosophy <http://www.uh.edu/~cfreelan/SWIP>

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

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