



Major/ Career Connections

Major Profile: Philosophy (AIE)

School of Liberal Arts

Artistic Interest Cluster

Is Philosophy for me?

Find out by answering the following questions. If you answer yes to most of them, read on to learn more. If not, try one of the other **Major Profiles** (<http://uc.iupui.edu/students/academics/mccs.asp>).

	No	Yes
Are you artistic, investigative, and enterprising (see Interest Cluster sheets)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you enjoy critical thinking, profound questions, and intensive analysis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you participate in the debate team?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you interested in fundamental questions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you enjoy learning about theoretical perspectives?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you able to listen to and respect other people's viewpoints?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you look at multiple sides of an issue to formulate your own opinion based on reason and logic?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is Philosophy?

Philosophy studies the general understanding of the whole of reality. It draws on the insights of the great historical philosophers, on what has been learned in all other major fields of study, and on the rich perspective embodied within our ordinary ways of thinking. Philosophers address a diverse array of deep, challenging, and profoundly important questions. Examples include the nature of the self and of personal identity; the existence or nonexistence of God; the nature of such phenomena as time, mind, language, and science; the sources and limits of human knowledge; the nature of the good life; the foundations of state authority; the requirements of social justice; and the nature of art, beauty, and aesthetic experience.

What Courses Will I Take?

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Logic
- Personal & Social Ethics
- Biomedical Ethics
- Ethical Theory
- Philosophy of Human Nature
- Philosophy & Modern Times
- Philosophy of Language
- Feminist Philosophy
- Nineteenth Philosophy
- Society & State in the Modern World

What are Some Related Majors?

- Chinese Language & Literature (AIE)
- Musicology (AIE)
- Russian Language & Literature (AIE)
- Architecture (IAE)
- Political Science (SAI)
- Religious Studies (SAI)
- Industrial Design (AER)
- Biology (IAR)
- International Economics (IAS)
- Linguistics (IAS)

What Skills Will I Develop?

In this major you will learn to answer foundational questions in disciplined ways. Critical thinking and writing skills are intensively developed. Philosophy majors are practiced in the careful analysis and evaluation of arguments, in original and creative thinking, and in the clear, precise, and persuasive communication of ideas. These skills are a strong asset in any profession.

What Professions does Philosophy prepare me for?

Philosophy majors tend to score exceptionally high on the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test), the GMAT (admissions test for MBA programs), and the GRE (Graduate Record Exam). In fact, Philosophy majors ranked ahead of all others in two of the three sections: Analytical Writing AND Verbal Reasoning (www.iupui.edu/~philosop/gre.htm). Many graduates pursue careers in law, public policy, state/federal government, education, or business.

What Job Opportunities Exist?

Related Careers

According to a national survey of college graduates, only one-third of graduates from bachelor's level philosophy programs work in occupations that are related to their undergraduate studies (The College Majors Handbook, 2004). Some pursue one of the following career options (Guide to College Majors, 2008). Those with an * may require further experience, training, or education.

- Attorney*
- Editor
- Journalist
- Policy Researcher
- Mediator
- Philosopher
- Political Scientist
- Professor*
- Computer/Information Technology
- Archivist*
- Public Relations
- Writer

Employment Outlook

Philosophy majors work in a variety of occupations, which have various projected growth rates through 2014. In general, the fastest growth is projected in for-profit business. The problem-solving, thinking, and persuasive abilities developed as a philosophy major are flexible intellectual skills which help graduates easily adapt to many types of jobs (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-07).

Salary Expectations

The average salary for bachelor's level philosophy majors is \$25,000 to \$35,000 depending on the field (Guide to College Majors, 2008). Salaries vary greatly because you can find philosophy graduates in such fields as marketing, the military, business, law, acting, medicine, and teaching. For example, marketing managers average salaries of \$87,640, while secondary teachers make \$46,597 a year (OOH, 2006-07).

What Graduate/Professional School Opportunities Exist?

Nearly 52% of all philosophy majors eventually obtain an advanced degree (The College Majors Handbook, 2004). This major is seen as a key pathway to law school. Some pursue advanced studies in one of the following areas:

- Philosophy
- Law
- Public Affairs
- Education
- Computer/Information Technology
- Social Science
- Health Field

Where Can I get More Information?



IUPUI School of Liberal Arts Philosophy Department	http://www.iupui.edu/~philosop/ Office: Cavanaugh Hall, 331 Phone: (317) 274-8082
Academic Advising at IUPUI	http://uc.iupui.edu/students/academics/index.asp
Career Counseling at IUPUI	http://uc.iupui.edu/students/career/index.asp
Guide to Philosophy on the Internet	http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm
What Can I Do With This Degree? (Purdue)	https://www.cco.purdue.edu/student/Major/information/philosophy.pdf
The American Philosophical Association	http://www.apaonline.org/
Fordham University – Why Study Philosophy?	http://www.fordham.edu/philosophy/undergraduate/careers.htm