

PHILOSOPHY

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EDUCATION

Teaching
Research
Administration
Student affairs (e.g., student activities, leadership development, admissions, orientation, career services, residence life, multi-cultural affairs, study abroad, international student services)
Academic affairs (e.g., academic support services, advising, educational advancement programs, honors programs)
Library sciences

Colleges and universities
Professional or graduate schools, including medical
Adult education programs
Vocational-technical educational programs

Obtain a doctorate degree to teach at colleges and universities. Maintain a high GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations to prepare for graduate school.
Develop one or more concentration(s), such as mathematics, medical or business ethics, science, or religion.
Become an effective writer.
Earn a master's degree in a specialized area (e.g., college student personnel, higher education administration, or library and information sciences to work in other roles at post-secondary institutions).
Seek campus leadership positions such as peer mentor, orientation leader, or resident assistant.
Build strong interpersonal skills.

ETHICS

Teaching
Research
Medical/Clinical
Bioethics
Environmental
Law-related

Hospitals
Medical and professional schools
Colleges and universities
Bioethic centers
Research institutes
Medical organizations (e.g., American Medical Association)
Health science funding agencies
Environmental agencies
Law firms specializing in health or bioethics
Consulting services

Plan to obtain a doctorate in philosophy for academic research and teaching positions. Some hospitals and healthcare organizations prefer to hire individuals who also have a clinical background in nursing or medicine. Another potential educational path is to earn a law degree.
Complete an internship in a relevant setting while in graduate school to gain experience.
Participate in professional organizations in ethics.
Develop excellent research skills as well as verbal and written communication skills.
Demonstrate commitment to ethical issues through involvement and volunteer experiences.
Investigate interdisciplinary degrees in bioethics offered at some universities.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

LAW

See also What Can I Do With This Major in Law?

Prosecution

Defense

Contractual

Corporate

Nonprofit or public interest

Government

Mediation

Other specialties

Law assistance

Law firms

Federal, state, and local government

Private practice

Corporations

Special interest groups

Universities and colleges

Legal aid societies

Nonprofit and public interest organizations (e.g.,
ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Legal
Services Corporation)

Legal clinics

Other private legal services

Plan on attending law school or a paralegal training school/program depending on area of interest.

Develop strong research skills and attention to detail. Participate in debate or forensic team to hone reasoning, communication and critical thinking skills.

Choose courses or a minor to specialize in a particular area of law (e.g., a minor in business for a career in corporate law).

Gain experience and build skills through part-time or summer work in a law firm or an organization related to your particular interests.

Shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties.

Get involved in pre-law and mock trial organizations. Volunteer with a public advocacy group.

Seek experience with mediation and conflict resolution.

Maintain a high GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations. Prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test).

BUSINESS

Sales

Management

Office administration

Human resources

Training and development

Writing/editing

Underwriting and claims management

Entrepreneurship

Product and service organizations

Retail stores

Hotels

Restaurants

Wholesalers

Manufacturers

Banks and financial institutions

Insurance companies

Real estate agencies

Consulting firms

Other business corporations

Entrepreneurial/start up, incubators and funding organizations

Earn a minor in business.

Develop excellent communication skills.

Gain experience in an area of interest through internships or other employment.

Obtain leadership roles in campus or community organizations.

Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills and a high energy level.

Learn to use various technologies and software packages such as databases, spreadsheets and presentations.

Be prepared to start in entry level positions, such as management trainee programs.

Consider earning an MBA to advance into higher levels of business management.

Participate in campus and community "pitch" competitions and startup support organizations.

AREAS

RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED AREAS

Clergy and other religious leaders:

Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, Islamic,
Hindu, Greek Orthodox

Vocation as Monk or Nun

Chaplaincy:

Military
Institutional

Mission Work:

Church development
Community or agricultural development
Educational
Medical
Metropolitan
Evangelism

Local ministries including:

Youth ministries
Adult ministries
Leisure ministries
Counseling/recovery
Religious education
Day care, children and adult
Food bank/emergency ministries
Family life center management

Music-oriented ministries

Religious camp administration

EMPLOYERS

Local churches, synagogues, mosques

Religious organizations

Religious communities (e.g., convents and
monasteries)

Religious retreat centers, Christian and Buddhist

Denominational boards and agencies

Monasteries

All branches of military service

Hospitals, hospices

Homes for children, youth, senior citizens

Correctional institutions

Police and fire departments

Missions boards

Local churches

Evangelical organizations (e.g., Billy Graham
Evangelistic Association)

Religious-based camps and youth programs

STRATEGIES

Obtain general knowledge of practices, procedures,
guidelines and doctrine of one's faith.

Possess understanding of human spiritual and
social needs.

Research requirements to enter leadership in the
faith you want to pursue. Master of Divinity and
denominational ordination are required for most
clergy positions, for example.

Possess high moral and ethical standards.

Develop leadership ability and self discipline.

Obtain excellent written and verbal communication
skills.

To become a chaplain, obtain ordination and two
years' service in local church or after acceptance
into branch of military service, attend chaplaincy
school.

Obtain any needed advanced degrees, certification,
or licensing in area of interest for missions.

Seek related experience by participating with
missions groups.

Obtain travel and cultural experience with group of
interest. Foreign language skills are a plus.

Develop fund raising skills and contacts.

People interested in religious vs. secular work
possess deep faith, want more than filling one's
own personal needs, and desire to make a
difference.

May be more opportunities for specific ministries in
urban areas and large religious institutions.

Obtain experience and contacts through extensive
involvement in campus organizations or local
religious institutions. Leadership on the local,
state, and regional level is crucial.

Seek camp experience to improve organization and
counseling skills as well as network within the
denominational/organizational structure.

Learn to work well with people of all different back-
grounds and socioeconomic status.

Earn dual degrees where appropriate (e.g., music).

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY SERVICES

Administration/Management
Fund raising/development
Public relations
Policy analysis
Research
Grant writing
Direct service
Social entrepreneurship

Local and national nonprofit agencies
Foundations
Charitable organizations
Trade or professional associations
Special interest groups
Labor unions
Research organizations and think tanks
Government agencies
Incubators, start up investors

Seek courses with service learning components. Supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology, sociology, or social work. Plan to volunteer and/or complete an internship. Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations. Develop strong communication and research skills. Learn how to write grants. Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area (e.g., public health, environment, urban issues). Research organizations' values. It is critical that you are knowledgeable about and committed to the work you plan to do. Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field. Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement. Participate in campus and community "pitch" competitions and startup support organizations.

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

Public policy
Research
Regional planning
City management
Intelligence
Foreign service
Law enforcement
Legislative, executive, or judicial services
Program administration
Elected or appointed leadership
Campaign management
Staff administration
Special interest advocacy

State and local government
Federal departments and agencies
Foreign Service
Federal Municipal Archives
National and State Endowments for the Humanities
Legislative, executive, or judicial officials
Political action committees
Special interest groups
Political parties
Campaigns (national, state, or local)

Take courses or minor in applicable interest area(s). Seek leadership roles in relevant campus organizations such as model United Nations, student government, and cross-cultural organizations. Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs. Participate in national campaigns. Develop computer, statistics, data analysis, and other functional administrative skills. Acquire foreign language competency and travel experience for international positions. Complete a federal government internship. There are a large number of specialized agencies within the federal government. Extensive research will help you find the right fit. Earn a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement. Become familiar with the government application process. Utilize applicable websites and seek assistance from your college career center.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

COMMUNICATIONS

Writing
Editing
Technical writing
Journalism

University and commercial publishing companies
Magazine and newspaper publishers
Professional and trade associations
Electronic media organizations
Websites

Take courses or minor in journalism, advertising, public relations, or English.
Develop excellent writing, editing, and desktop publishing skills. Learn how to design websites.
Gain related experience through internships.
Volunteer to help campus or local organizations with their communications.
Serve on college newspaper or other campus publication staffs.
Join relevant professional associations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Philosophy students develop many transferable skills that can be utilized in a variety of careers and jobs, demonstrating the flexibility and capacity for growth that employers find valuable. These skills include analytical, organizational, research, as well as oral and written communication.
- Other skills emphasized in philosophy that are attractive to employers are idea generation, problem formulation and problem solving, diverse data integration, adaptation to change, the ability to elicit hidden assumptions, persuasion, and summarization of complicated material.
- It is important for philosophy students to identify potential career goals and seek out the experiences and education required to enter those fields.
- An undergraduate degree qualifies one for entry-level positions in business, nonprofit organizations, and government.
- Graduate and/or professional studies usually lead to careers in law, medicine, ministry, finance, psychology, counseling, diplomacy, ethics, and related areas.
- Ph.D. is required for college/university teaching and research.
- Consider earning a minor or concentration in another discipline such as: mathematics, religion, science, business, political science, women's studies, Eastern philosophy, sustainability or environmental studies.
- Develop aptitudes for analytical thinking, logic, and statistics in order to apply philosophy to a broad range of professions such as law, government, finance, management, consulting, and related areas.
- Seek related volunteer, summer/part-time work experience or internships in area(s) of interest.
- Join related student or professional organizations. Work toward leadership roles.
- Conduct informational interviews or shadow professionals in fields of interest.