

LIBERAL ARTS OVERVIEW

Many majors, such as Philosophy and Religious Studies, give students experiences they need to succeed in a variety of areas. Philosophy can give students many skills to thrive in other fields. Students from our Philosophy major have also gone into the fields of human services, business, law, and higher education. Their courses, projects, and involvement have given them “transferable skills,” which are skills that can be used for most careers. Some transferable skills learned by Philosophy majors are written communication, problem solving, critical thinking and public speaking. The core of Philosophy is to better the student’s understanding of their own values. In turn, this helps students feel comfortable working with others who may not have the same values, beliefs, and vision, and helps them to appreciate those with differing views. Students in Philosophy will gain an understanding of themselves and the world around them.

PHILOSOPHY

What is Philosophy? (from <http://uncw.edu/career/philosophyreligion.html>)

The study of philosophy develops our ability to make sense of ourselves and our surroundings. Philosophers apply critical thinking to questions of values and beliefs in order to understand reality, clarify the nature of interactions between individuals and society, and come to terms with the problems of existence and ultimate values. Different schools of thought in economics, history, psychology, and education are based upon differences in philosophy. Political and religious beliefs and codes of ethic are based on philosophical assumptions. Students who study philosophy engage in the examination of their own beliefs, the resolution of conflicts, the search for a purpose to life, and the development of a basis for ethical decisions.

What are the career opportunities for a philosophy major?

Related Career Titles (Some of these jobs require education beyond the bachelor’s degree.)
 (from <http://uncw.edu/career/philosophyreligion.html>)

Administrative Assistant	Consultant	Lawyer
Announcer	Counselor	Lobbyist
Arts Consultant	Credit Analyst	Management Analyst
Assistant Buyer	Critic	Management Trainee
Author	Customer Service Rep	Marketing Research Analyst
Business Administrator	Diplomat	News Writer
Claims Adjuster	Editorial Assistant	Nursing Home Director
Columnist	Employment Interviewer	Paralegal
Public Policy Manager	Financial Consultant	Producer/Director

Public Relations Rep.	Fund Raiser	Professor
Public Service Official	Guidance Counselor	Psychologist
YMCA/YWCA Worker	Hospital Administrator	Salvation Army Worker
Sales Representative	Insurance Underwriter	Social Worker
Technical Writer	Journalist	Systems Analyst

Some Employers of Philosophy Majors (from <http://uncw.edu/career/philosophyreligion.html>)

Advertising agencies Consulting firms Colleges & universities Religious associations Newspapers & magazines	Government political parties Hospitals Publishing companies	Nonprofit organizations Media State & federal government Business & industry
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How can you get ready?

- Develop transferable skills that can be utilized in a variety of careers, including analytical, organizational and research, as well as oral and written communication skills.
- Other related skills 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.
- 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. A Ph.D. is required for college/university teaching and research.
- 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.
- Join related student or professional organizations.
- Seek related summer or part-time work experience or internships in area(s) of interest.
- Take computer courses to increase employment opportunities.

Related Major Skills (from <http://uncw.edu/career/philosophyreligion.html>)

Communicating in logical manner	Interest in pursuing, exploring and explaining intangible ideas
Debating skills	Self-discipline
Theory development	Curiosity
Open-mindedness	Close, extensive reading
Objectivity	Work independently
Oratory skills	Problem solving
Deductive reasoning	

What about the future?

For specific job outlook information, please refer to www.bls.gov/ooh .

“Employment of fundraisers is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth will be driven by the continued need of nonprofit organizations to collect donations in order to run their operations.”

“Employment of social and human service assistants is projected to grow 11 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth is projected due to a growing elderly population and rising demand for healthcare and social services.”

“Employment of lawyers is projected to grow 6 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Demand for legal work is expected to continue as individuals, businesses, and all levels of government require legal services in many areas.”

Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College Experiential Learning and Career Development Center.

Job and Internship Search Links

- Philosophy Now... jobs in philosophy <http://www.epistemelinks.com/Main/MainJob.asp>
- Idealist - The Non-Profit Career Center <http://www.idealist.org>
- Work for Good <https://www.workforgood.org/>

Professional Associations Links

- SWIP: The Society for Women in Philosophy <http://www.uh.edu/~cfreelan/SWIP>
- American Philosophical Association <http://www.apaonline.org>
- Philosophy of Science Association <http://www.philsci.org/>

Miscellaneous Resources

- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>
- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>
- The Value of Philosophy
<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/index.htm>