

# Philosophy

## What can I do with this degree?



The study of philosophy deals with the basic concepts of natural experience, knowledge, and morality. Students that study philosophy learn to think critically, apply reasoning, and convey messages through tactful argument. Students who study the discipline of philosophy will learn to think logically, evaluate through reasoning and create/develop novel approaches to solving problems. The study of philosophy allows students to develop the strong character of an individual who can inquire, think, and solve on their own, independently. A degree in Philosophy is an excellent preparation for careers in Theology, Law, Medicine, Business and Psychology.

### Philosophy Skills

- Ability to see things from different perspectives
- Critical Thinking
- Debating Skills
- Curious Nature
- Deductive Reasoning

### Degrees & Certifications

- Bachelor of Arts, B.A.
- Doctors of Philosophy, Ph. D.
- Masters of Arts, M.A., M.Ed.
- Certifications by the American Philosophical Practitioners Association in Counseling, Facilitation and Consulting
- Licentiate in Philosophy, Ph. L.

### Possible Work Settings

- Advertising/Marketing Agencies
- Healthcare
- Non-profit Organizations
- Business/Industry
- Insurance Agencies
- Political Organizations
- Environmental Agencies
- Libraries
- Public Interest Groups
- Federal, State and Local Government
- Magazines
- Religious Organizations
- Funding Agencies
- Museums
- Social Service Agencies
- Newspapers

### CAREER PATHS

*(Some of the occupations outlined in this brochure may require additional education or training)*

#### **...in Business**

#### **Areas of Interest**

- Administration and Management Sales
- Attorney or Legal Assistant
- Human Resources
- Advertising and Marketing
- Finance
- Insurance

## Possible Work Settings

- Advertising Agencies
- Business Firms
- Consulting Firms
- Insurance Companies
- Marketing Research Departments/Organizations
- Museums
- Real Estate Companies
- Travel Agencies

## Preparation Strategies

- Earn leadership roles in campus organizations
- Get related experience
- Take advertising courses
- Take a business minor

## ...in Consulting/Ethics

### Sample Job Titles

- Consultant
- Environmental Expert
- Medical Advisor
- Researcher

### Sample Job Titles

- Colleges and Universities
- Consulting Services
- Environmental Agencies
- Federal and State Government
- Health Science Funding Agencies
- Medical and Professional Schools
- Research Organizations

## Preparation Strategies

- Develop excellent research, verbal and written communications skills
- Join debate groups
- Learn federal and state government job application process
- Participate in related professional organizations

## ...in Education/Writing

### Sample Job Titles

- Administrator
- Editor or Publisher
- Journalist or Technical Writer
- Professor or Teacher
- Researcher

## Possible Work Settings

- Adult Education Programs
- Advertising Agencies/Departments
- Colleges and Universities
- Government Agencies
- Insurance Companies
- Magazine and Newspaper Companies
- Museums or Nonprofit Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional/Trade Associations
- Public Interest Research Groups
- Publishers/Companies
- Travel Agencies
- Vocational-Technical Educational Programs



## Preparation Strategies

- Become a student member of related professional group
- Develop excellent writing and desktop publishing skills
- Secure an internship in an area of interest or serve on college newspaper staff
- Obtain Ph.D. for most teaching and research positions and Master's degree in a specialized area, e.g. Library and Information Sciences, College Student Personnel, etc.

## ...in Government

### Sample Job Titles

- Congressional Staffs
- Foreign Service and Diplomacy
- Lobbyist or Lawyer
- Public Administration/Policy
- State and Federal Positions

### Possible Work Settings

- Commission on Civil Rights
- Consumer Production Safety Commission
- Department of Energy
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Municipal Archives
- Federal State and Local Government
- Foreign Services
- National and State Endowments for the Humanities
- Office of Personnel

## Preparation Strategies

- Learn federal, state, and local job application process

## ...in Religion/Ministry

### Sample Job Titles

- Clergy
- Missions

### Possible Work Settings

- District, Jurisdictional, National and World Division of Demonstrations
- Local Churches/Synagogues
- Local, National and International Mission Fields
- Religious Affiliated Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Religious Organizations

## Preparation Strategies

- Become certified through denomination for specialized staff positions
- Gain related experience through local church or religious organizations
- Obtain appropriate seminary training for clergy

## ...in Social/Community Services

### Sample Job Titles

- Advocate
- Counselor
- Fundraiser
- Human Rights Activist
- Mental Health Worker
- Social Worker



## Possible Work Settings

- Libraries
- Mental Health Organizations
- Museums
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Organizations Serving the Arts
- Public Interest Research Groups
- Social Service Organizations

## Preparation Strategies

- Acquire a Master's degree in Library and Information Sciences
- Develop excellent verbal and communication skills
- Gain related work experience
- Obtain a Master's degree in social work or counseling for therapy
- Take counseling courses

## Resources

### Texas State University-Student Organizations

- Phi Sigma (honors society) , <http://www.txstate.edu/philosophy/other-programs/phi-sigma-tau.html>

### Professional Organizations

- American Association of Political Consultants, <http://www.theaapc.org/>
- Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory, <http://www.afeast.org/>
- Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, <http://www.indiana.edu/~appe/>
- Association for Symbolic Logic, <http://www.aslonline.org/index.htm>
- American Philosophical Association, <http://www.apaonline.org/>
- American Philosophical Practitioners Association, <http://www.appa.edu/index.htm>
- American Philosophical Society, <http://www.amphilsoc.org/>
- American Political Science Association, <http://www.apsanet.org/>
- American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, <http://www.asbh.org/>
- Idealist, <http://www.idealists.org>
- Institute for Global Ethics, <http://www.globalethics.org/>
- Society for Business Ethics, <http://www.societyforbusinessethics.org/>
- Society for Christian Philosophers, <http://www.societyofchristianphilosophers.com/>
- Society for Utopian Studies, <http://www.utoronto.ca/utopia/>
- The Society for Women in Philosophy, <http://www.uh.edu/~cfreelan/SWIP/>
- Theosophical Society in America, <http://www.theosophical.org/>



### **Job/Internship Search Links**

- American Academy of Religion, <http://www.aarweb.org/>
- Philosophical Services, <http://philosophical-services.com/>

### **Additional Resources**

- Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://www.bls.gov/OCO>

### **Career Library Resources**

- *Career Opportunities in Politics, Government, and Activism* by Joan Axelrod-Contrada
- *Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors* by Blythe Camenson
- *Top Careers for Liberal Arts Graduates* by Ferguson
- *150 Best Jobs for a Better World* by the Editors @ JIST and Laurence Shatkin

*Information for this handout compile from:*

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**[www.careerservices.txstate.edu](http://www.careerservices.txstate.edu)**

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