



ALL ABOUT PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy



For the love
of knowledge

WHO STUDIES PHILOSOPHY?

Why study philosophy?

Philosophy means “love of wisdom.” Philosophy studies big questions—*What is truth? Does God exist? Do we have free will? Can machines think? What’s the best form of government? How should we make moral judgments?*—and gives you the tools not only to try to answer those questions, but also to have a successful career and a fulfilling life.

What will I learn in my philosophy courses?

Philosophy teaches crucial skills for life and work. In philosophy, you learn **critical thinking**—how to think clearly and rationally, how to be reflective and use independent judgment.

And you learn excellent **written and verbal communication** and develop your reading and public speaking skills.

You learn **moral and ethical reasoning**, so that you can make good choices in your career and throughout your life.

And you learn to **analyze and understand arguments and assertions** so you can recognize and critique bad arguments and develop better ones.

In philosophy, you’ll also learn to **understand and fairly consider others’ worldviews**, helping you to work across differences and engage with people of all backgrounds and experiences.

These are just a few of the skills philosophy teaches—skills that will help you excel in any career, adapt to a changing world, and find fulfillment in other areas of your life as well.

What kinds of careers do philosophy students have?

You can find people who studied philosophy in all careers and fields.

A philosophy major or minor is a typical start to a law career, and philosophy students routinely outperform nearly all other majors on the LSAT, GRE, and GMAT. Philosophy students also have among the highest lifetime and mid-career earnings of all humanities fields.

People who study philosophy have gone on to be successful tech leaders, entrepreneurs, journalists, professors, politicians, clergy, Supreme Court justices, award-winning writers, actors, comedians, filmmakers, activists, and even Presidents of the United States.

For more, see here:
apaonline.org/whostudiesphilosophy

What philosophical topics can I study?

Philosophy is a great field to study on its own or together with another major or minor. Here are a few areas of philosophy you might encounter:

- Social & Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy of Law
- Philosophy of Science
- Philosophy of Mind
- Aesthetics (Philosophy of Art)
- Feminist Philosophy
- Business Ethics
- Medical Ethics
- Environmental Ethics
- Logic



Katy Tur, journalist

“[Philosophy] was by far the best major I could have taken in college. **It allowed me to do anything that I wanted to do.** Philosophy is a great major because it allows me to ask questions, and that is what I do every day.”



Angela Davis, professor/activist

“**Learning how to raise questions, even about that which one assumes is unquestionable—**this is what I’ve learned from [philosophy].”



Damon Horowitz, entrepreneur

“You go into [philosophy] to pursue your intellectual passion, and it just so happens as a byproduct that **you emerge as a desired commodity for industry.**”

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