

*What can I do with a major in...*

# Philosophy

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Philosophy is the branch of learning that critically examines the basic beliefs underlying our views of nearly everything. As such it is sometimes called "the most general science."

Philosophy is both critical and constructive. Philosophy has various branches in which these basic beliefs are examined: ethics, logic, theory of knowledge, philosophy of science, aesthetics, philosophy of religion, and the most general of all the branches of philosophy — metaphysics, are some of the specific areas of philosophical study.

The study of philosophy demands and fosters clear and systematic thinking. It requires the student to develop abilities to do research, think about the results, organize these results and express them in both oral and written form. In addition to developing these obviously useful skills, the study of philosophy enables students to create for themselves a basic understanding of civilization itself — to create an enduring framework with which to structure all the rest of the information they absorb in the increasingly complex world of today.

A bachelor's degree in philosophy can be applied to many beginning jobs in business, government, communications, and education, which are generally open to liberal arts graduates. A philosophy major is an especially useful preparation for further study of the law, and also the other two traditional professions: medicine and theology. **For current information on graduate school in Philosophy, visit <http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/>.**

The job titles and hiring institutions which follow are meant to give you an idea of the careers available to philosophy majors, however many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

## POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Administrative assistant (federal, state, county, municipal)	Lawyer
Anthropologist	Library director
Archeologist	Lobbyist
Archivist	Marketing assistant
Business/management trainee	Museum guide or technician
Claims adjuster	News editor (radio, T.V.)
Clergy member	Paralegal
College/university official	Peace Corps volunteer
Contracting specialist	Professor
Counselor	Psychologist
Critic (art, books, drama, films)	Public policy
Diplomat	Public relations
Editorial assistant	Public service
Foreign correspondent	Research assistant (documents & records)
Foreign service officer	Salesperson (books)
Fund raiser	Social/welfare worker
Human resources manager	Teacher
Insurance agent/broker	Travel guide
	Writer: free-lance, technical

## REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Archives  
Bookstores  
Business corporations & industries  
Churches & religious organizations  
Colleges, schools & educational institutions  
Foundations & non-profit organizations  
Government agencies  
Insurance companies  
Libraries  
Lobbying groups

Magazines, newspapers & periodicals  
Museums  
Public relations firms  
Publishing companies  
Radio/T.V. industry  
Research institutes  
Social service agencies  
Think tanks  
Travel agencies

## WHERE DO UMW PHILOSOPHY MAJORS GO?

### EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITES

- Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc.,
- Fredericksburg Public Defender Office
- Rappahannock Legal Services, Inc.
- Law Office of Randall Caddle/Caddle  
Immigration
- 21<sup>st</sup> District Court Service Unit

### GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- California Western School of Law, Juris Doctor
- Saint Michael's College, Master's of Experiential  
Education

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

1. American Philosophical Association: [www.apaonline.org](http://www.apaonline.org)
2. American Philosophical Society: [www.amphilsoc.org](http://www.amphilsoc.org)
3. Association for Practical & Professional Ethics: [www.indiana.edu/~appe/](http://www.indiana.edu/~appe/)

*\*The Office of Career Services also maintains a resource library with a variety of books and other printed material where students can access additional information about their major or field of interest. Visit us in Lee Hall, Room 308 to learn more.*