

PHILOSOPHY AND CAREERS

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A PHILOSOPHY MAJOR?

Some careers require specific or technical skills and knowledge. You can't be an Engineer without specific training in engineering! But many careers, including engineering, and others – for example, medicine, law, business -- require the skills of thinking outside the box, critical thinking, open-mindedness, , ethical reasoning, problem solving, writing and analysis.

<http://www.wpunj.edu/cohss/departments/philosophy/payoff.dot>

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO STUDIED PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy majors have gone on to become many different things: composers, film makers, film critics, actors, political leaders, business leaders, writers, professors, comedians, presidents, judges, doctors. For a sample of famous students of philosophy, check out:

- <http://teach.valdosta.edu/chjames/famousphilosophy.htm>
- <http://www.philosophymajor.org/famous-philosophers>

MEDICINE

Philosophy majors who are interested in a career in medicine *and* who take the necessary science courses have one of the highest acceptance rates to medical school.

<http://www.amsa.org/AMSA/Homepage/Publications/TheNewPhysician/2000/tnp275.aspx> and AAMC Data Warehouse: Applicant Matriculant File, as of November 22, 2000

Humanities majors outperform Biological Sciences majors on the MCATs. (In this data set, **Philosophy** is defined as a humanities major.)

Source: AAMC: Data Warehouse: Applicant Matriculant File as of 10/19/2010

<https://www.aamc.org/data/facts/applicantmatriculant/>

•• Inquire about Hofstra's **Pre-med/Pre-health Major with a concentration in Philosophy.** ••

LAW

Philosophy majors were the second highest performers on the LSATs, topped only by Physics/math majors.

The Journal of Economic Education, Spring 2006, p. 247. Table 3. Average 2002-2003 LSAT scores.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Philosophy majors outperform all other majors on the GRE Verbal and the GRE Analytic

Philosophy majors outperform all other humanities majors and biological sciences majors on the GRE Quantitative.

GRE Data From: Graduate Record Examination's Guide to the Use of Scores 2010-11

Produced by: Educational Testing Service Based on the performance of all examinees who tested between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2009

(Oh, and **philosophy** is interesting, challenging, fun and meaningful, too!)

MEAN GMAT TOTAL SCORES

Philosophy majors outperform Business majors, and most science majors, except for Physics and Math majors, on the GMAT. "Profile of GMAT Candidates, 2005-06 to 2009-10," by GMAC <http://www.gmac.com/gmac/ResearchandTrends/GMATStats/ProfileofCandidates.htm>

UG Major	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Philosophy	575	583	591	576	587
Accounting	506	508	511	511	520
Actual Science	568	576	576	582	577
Business Ed.	496	502	509	511	520
Finance	536	542	544	548	555
Info. Sys. Tech.	510	521	530	529	536
Int'l Bus.	502	516	519	521	528
Mgmt	486	494	496	498	503
Marketing	485	487	491	491	493
Ops Mgmt/Prod.	555	557	562	549	576

BUSINESS

Among the *U.S. News & World Report* top 20 MBA programs, 34% of admitted MBA students for the class of 2011 were undergraduate business majors; the rest were from other fields. For the class of 2011, Humanities and Social Science majors composed 40% of the class at Harvard, 47% at Stanford and 42% at Wharton.

<http://www.beatthegmat.com/mba/2009/11/20/which-undergrad-major-is-most-preferred-by-the-top-mba-programs>

"On average nationally, business students enter the work force with higher starting salaries than those of humanities and social-science majors. By midcareer, however, some of those liberal-arts majors, including in political science and **philosophy**, have closed the gap."

"Business Educators Struggle to Put Students to Work," by David Glenn *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in collaboration with *The New York Times*, April 14, 2011 <http://chronicle.com/article/Business-Education-Not-Always/127108/>

"**Philosophy** offers a deeper, broader way of thinking to help guide companies through times made tougher by overspecialized experts."

"Philosophy is Back in Business," by Dov Seidman, *Bloomberg Business Week*, January 12, 2010 http://www.businessweek.com/managing/content/jan2010/ca20100110_896657.htm,

Philosophy graduates -- what can they possibly have to offer? "We need people who have the ability to look for different approaches and take an open mind to issues. These skills are promoted by philosophical approaches."

"I think, therefore I earn," by Jessica Shepherd, *The Guardian*, November 20, 2007 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2007/nov/20/choosingadegree.highereducation>

- "If You Know You'll Get An MBA...It could make sense to get a degree in the sciences or humanities first," *Bloomberg Business Week*, May 8, 2006 http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/06_19/b3983414.htm

- But Can They Write? By Lynn O'Shaughnessy, *The New York Times*, April 17, 2011 <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/04/17/why-look-down-on-a-business-degree>,

- "The Management Myth," by Matthew Stewart, *The Atlantic*, June 2006 <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2006/06/the-management-myth/4883/1/>

- "**Philosophers** Find the Degree Pays Off in Life and Work", by Carol Marie Cropper, *The New York Times*, December 26, 1997

<http://www.nytimes.com/1997/12/26/business/philosophers-find-the-degree-pays-off-in-life-and-in-work.html?pagewanted=4&src=pm>

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