Philosophy

Philosophy is the study of fundamental assumptions and the process of learning. Specific areas of inquiry include: Axiology (including Ethics—the study of right vs. wrong, and how we come to those beliefs—and Aesthetics—the study of value); Metaphysics (investigating the nature of reality); Epistemology (examining the nature of knowledge); and Logic (exploring both mathematical and language based forms of inquiry).

As with many of the liberal arts, knowledge gained from the study of philosophy gives students a wider perspective on the world (what has been, what is possible, and ways of approaching those possibilities), and specific skills to apply that knowledge in a wide variety of specialized areas. Through the study of philosophy, students gain skills in: identifying and solving problems through critical investigation, analysis and synthesis of information; handling qualitative and quantitative data; written and verbal communication; and the ability to engage in disciplined and sustained intellectual application. These skills are relevant to and valued in nearly all occupational areas.

The occupational outlook for various optional fields varies.

Some career possibilities for Philosophy majors:

Actor/Actress
Advertising Executive
Anthropologist
Arbitrator
Archivist/Curator
Artist
Biographer
Business Manager/Director
College Administrator
College Instructor
Community Organizer
Conflict Mediator
Consultant
Copy Editor
Counselor
Criminologist
Diplomat
Economist
Editorial Assistant
Educator
Entertainer
Entrepreneur
FBI/CIA Agent
Film Editor
Filmmaker
Foreign Correspondent
Freelance Writer
Historian
Human Resources Specialist
Investigative Reporter
Journalist
Judge
Lawyer
Lecturer
Librarian
Lobbyist
Market Research Analyst
Medical Doctor
Medical Ethicist
Minister
Naturopathic Doctor
Nurse
Paralegal
Personnel Manager
Political Scientist
Politician
Public Relations Specialist
Publicist
Priest
Program Director
Psychologist
Public Administrator
Publisher
Rabbi
Research Assistant
Researcher
Scriptwriter/Screenwriter
Social Worker
Sociologist
Songwriter/Musician
Speechwriter
Teacher
Technical Writer
Travel Guide
Travel Writer
Union Leader
Urban or Regional Planner
Writer

Possible employers of Philosophy majors:

Advertising Firms
Archives
Businesses and Industries
Chambers of Commerce
Colleges/Universities
Communications Media
Community Action Programs
Community Arts Programs
Community Organizations
Film & Entertainment
Companies
Historical Societies
Human Services
Organizations
Labor Unions
Law Firms
Libraries
Local, State, Federal & Tribal Governments
Magazines/Newspapers
Museums
Non-profit Organization
Political Parties & Campaigns
Public/Private Schools
Publishing Firms
Religious Associations
Research Foundations
Social Service Organizations

Professional Organizations & Additional Information:

The American Philosophical Association
31 Amstel Avenue
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716-4797
www.apa.udel.edu/ap/a

Association for Practical and Professional Ethics
Indiana University
618 East Third Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
www.indiana.edu/~appe/

Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World
Philosophy Documentation Center
P. O. Box 7147
Charlottesville, VA 22906-7147
www.westga.edu/~spcw

Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs
170 East 64th Street
New York, NY 10065-7478
www.cceia.org

Center for the Study of The Great Ideas
106 W. Germania Place
Chicago, IL 60610
www.thegreatideas.org

Other Internet-based sites:
Guide to Philosophy: www.earlham.edu/~peters/gpi/ass.htm
Living Philosophy: www.livingphilosophy.org

http://online.onetcenter.org