

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

The study of philosophy develops our ability to make sense of ourselves and our surroundings. Philosophers apply critical thinking to questions of values and beliefs in order to understand reality, clarify the nature of interactions between individuals and society, and come to terms with the problems of existence and ultimate values. Different schools of thought in economics, history, psychology, and education are based upon differences in philosophy. Political and religious beliefs and codes of ethic are based on philosophical assumptions. Students who study philosophy engage in the examination of their own beliefs, the resolution of conflicts, the search for a purpose to life, and the development of a basis for ethical decisions.

Religion studies examine spiritual belief, practices, and worship activities. Undergraduate courses in philosophy and religion are geared toward the preparation for life rather than a specific type of work, and provide an excellent background for a variety of careers. A background in philosophy and religion can help develop character and personal skills which are extremely important in most job situations: specifically, the abilities to listen carefully and critically; think clearly; analyze and organize ideas; write; defend one's position rationally; stimulate discussion; and question, confront, support, evaluate, reshape, and understand different points of view.

TYPICAL SKILLS LIST

Ability to formulate/defend positions
Ability to analyze cause/effects
Ability to appreciate others' perspectives
Ability to concentrate for long periods of time
Ability to make critical observations/evaluations

Ability to listen critically
Ability to understand ideas/values
Proficiency in analytical reasoning
Ability to organize/conduct/explain research
Ability to speak effectively/listen objectively

Ability to summarize/solve complicated material

Comprehensive command of grammar/vocabulary

TYPICAL CAREERS

The following are actual job titles of people who have graduated with an undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies although some of these positions may require education beyond a bachelors.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Responsible for incoming and outgoing correspondence, mailings, phone calls, visitors, scheduling appointments and meetings, management of files, records and sources of information for one or more executives or management group. May concentrate on legal, medical or technical work and use specialized terminology and procedures.

AUTHOR

Writes to communicate ideas, images, emotions, information or opinions.

CLERGY: PASTOR/MINISTER/YOUTH MINISTER/PRIEST/RABBI

Serves as a director of worship, spiritual and moral leader, counselor and teacher for the members of his/her denomination and often the community at large. Delivers sermons, conducts services, administers religious rites, instructs prospective congregation members, and counsels members in need of spiritual advice.

CREDIT ANALYST

Specializes in providing short-term commercial credit to business clients of a company or bank. Sometimes makes loans to business clients for longer periods.

EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEWER

Recruits, screens and interviews job applicants. Refers qualified applicants to prospective employers or hiring managers.

FUNDRAISER

Plans, manages or participates in raising assets and resources for an organization or cause.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Responsible for incoming and outgoing correspondence, mailings, phone calls, visitors, scheduling appointments and meetings, management of files, records and sources of information for one or more executives or management group. May concentrate on legal, medical or technical work and use specialized terminology and procedures.

INSURANCE UNDERWRITER

Assists in determining whether an insurance company will take on a particular risk. Analyzes actuarial studies and other pertinent information, prices policies in an attempt to balance risk and the need for profit, and answers inquiries from agents and clients.

JOURNALIST/NEWSWRITER

Collects and analyzes information about newsworthy events to write stories for newspapers and magazines. Receives assignments or evaluates news leads and news tips to develop story idea. Gathers and verifies factual information regarding story through interview, observation and research.

LAWYER

A licensed professional who interprets laws and government regulations for individuals and organizations. Acts both as impartial advisor and advocate. As advisor, helps clients comply with the law, protect their interests and avoid being sued. As advocate, negotiates with other parties on behalf of clients and argues vigorously on their behalf in disputes that reach the courts.

LOBBYIST

Distributes materials and disseminates information about a particular issue or organization, recruits volunteers, solicits funds, and organizes such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registration drives.

MARKETING RESEARCH ANALYST

Analyzes existing and potential product/service markets. Collects and interprets data on established and prospective customers and on competitors. Prepares data for use by marketing and sales management in pricing, marketing programs and future product development. Investigates methods and costs of distribution and advertising. Prepares reports that interpret market conditions and potentials.

PARALEGAL

Performs preparatory work required to research a case, develops documentation required to write a brief. May interview prospective witnesses. Works for private law offices, law firms, prosecutors, and public defenders.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

Works to advance the interests of an organization or cause by developing an active relationship with (and support from) such groups as customers, employees, donors, investors, suppliers, public interest groups, government officials and agencies, community/national leaders, minorities etc.

PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICIAL

Expert in public management and administrative techniques who manages day-to-day operations of government and public service agencies, analyzes effectiveness of current policies and helps plan future operations. Must pursue policies and goals determined by governing body (usually elected), but decides how best to implement them; may recommend alternatives.

SOCIAL WORKER

Promotes social justice and the alleviation of human suffering by strengthening client systems and eliminating barriers to essential resources. Trained to help individuals, families, organizations and communities deal with problems such as poverty, mental/physical disorder, abuse, family or personal difficulties, or declining health associated with old age.

HIRING ORGANIZATIONS

Advertising Agencies
Archives
Bookstores
Churches

Political Parties
Professional lobbyist groups
Professional periodicals
Public Relations firms

Consulting Firms
Colleges & Universities
Government agencies
Hospitals
Insurance companies
Libraries
Magazines/Newspapers
Museums
Non-Profit Organizations

Publishing companies
Radio/TV industry
Religious Associations
Religious organizations
Research institutions
Social Service agencies
Special and public interest groups
Travel agencies

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Philosophical Association
University of Delaware
31 Amstel Avenue
Newark, DE 19716-4797
www.udel.edu/apa
email: apaONLINE@udel.edu

American Philosophical Society
Independence Mall East
104 South Fifth Street
(215) 440-3400 fax: (215) 440-3436
www.amphilsoc.org

Society for Women in Philosophy
www.uh.edu/~cfreelan/SWIP

WEBSITES: JOB SEARCH

Philosophy Now...jobs in philosophy <http://www.epistemelinks.com/Main/MainJob.asp>

Philosophy - Jobs in America <http://www.sozialwiss.uni-hamburg.de/cgi-bin/jobspm.pl?sprache=english&category=Amerika>

The Society for Women in Philosophy Job Announcements
<http://www.dontlabelme.com/swip.htm>

Idealist - The Non-Profit Career Center* <http://www.idealist.org/career.html>

Philosophy in Cyberspace <http://www-personal.monash.edu.au/~dey/phil/jobs.htm>

MonsterTRAK <http://www.monstertrak.com>

WEBSITES: CAREER INFO

Philosophy resources on the World Wide Web <http://library.austin.cc.tx.us/research/w3/humanities/PHL/phl.htm>

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATION WEBSITES

SWIP: The Society for Women in Philosophy <http://www.uh.edu/~cfreelan/SWIP>

American Philosophy Association <http://www.udel.edu/apa/>

MISCELLANEOUS WEBSITES

The Window - philosophy on the Internet <http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/phil/philo>

Philosophy in Cyberspace <http://www-personal.monash.edu.au/~dey/phil/>

Church and Ecumenical Resources* <http://wcc-coe.org>

About.com - philosophy <http://www.philosophy.about.com/homework/philosophy/msubstudents.htm>

The Wadsworth Philosophy Shoppe <http://philosophy.wadsworth.com/>

Internet Nonprofit Center* <http://www.nonprofits.org/>

Study Web.com - Philosophy http://www.studyweb.com/History_Social_Studies/philos_toc.htm

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/>

Department of Philosophy & Religion <http://www.uncwil.edu/p&r>

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy offers a variety of courses covering a wide range of philosophical issues, including:

Staples: Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and Recent Philosophy; Critical Thinking; Logic; African Philosophy; Asian Philosophy

Stalwarts: Metaphysics, Theory of Knowledge, Philosophy of Science

Standards: Ethics, Medical, Business, and Environmental Ethics, Theories of the Visual Arts

State and Society: Philosophy of Law, Social & Political Philosophy, Philosophy & Feminism, Philosophy of Social Science

Stories: Philosophy of Literature, Philosophy of Language

Struggles: African American Philosophy, Philosophies of Peace, Philosophy & Feminism

And in each of these, **Stimulation!**

Programs of Study:

[Philosophy Major with concentration in Humanities](#) (traditional major)

[Philosophy Major with concentration in Social Sciences](#)

[Philosophy Major with concentration in Bioethics](#)

[Philosophy Minor](#)

Useful contacts:

Dr. Robert Kimball, Department Chair Email: robert.kimball@louisville.edu

Dr. Avery Kolers, Director of Undergraduate Studies Email: akolers@louisville.edu Phone: 852-0453

Useful Links

- [A&S Advising online services](#)
- [Philosophy Club](http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/philosophy/philclub.html) <http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/philosophy/philclub.html>
- ["What can you do with a philosophy degree?"](http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/philosophy/whatcanyoudo.html) <http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/philosophy/whatcanyoudo.html>
- [4 year plans for completing the major](http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/philosophy/4yrplan.html) <http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/philosophy/4yrplan.html>
- Keep up with advising, events, and opportunities in Philosophy through our [Blackboard](#) site (to get access to "Philosophy Students Advising & Info," contact Avery Kolers).

Useful College-wide Links:

- [Requirements for the B.A. Division of Humanities](#) [pdf]
- [College of Arts & Sciences](#)
- [Honors Program](#)
- American Philosophical Association:
 - [Statement on the Philosophy Major](#)
 - ["Philosophy: A Brief Guide for Undergraduates"](#)

