



# What can I do with a Major in...

## Philosophy

### What is Philosophy at U of L?

The U of L Philosophy Department offers a vibrant and diverse philosophical community serving students as well as the broader Louisville region. The Department's courses and programs, within the Division of Humanities, offer high-quality philosophical training and resources for graduate students as well as undergraduates. The Philosophy Department's graduate programs are currently offered under the auspices of the Master of Arts in Humanities. Students may concentrate in Philosophy as part of their Humanities MA. While we are currently reconstituting our departmental MA program and hope to be admitting students soon, as of now it remains the case that all prospective students should apply through the Humanities Division. Humanities MA students who concentrate in Philosophy are able to do advanced philosophical work in close contact with faculty. This interdisciplinary Master's Degree offers talented students the opportunity to pursue advanced training in philosophy while avoiding excessive specialization too early in their academic career. The Humanities MA with Concentration in Philosophy is ideal for students who intend to teach or to go on to a Ph.D. Program in Philosophy. It also offers excellent preparation for those who plan to go on in Humanities, Theology, Law, Medicine, or Business.

### Degrees in Philosophy at U of L:

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with concentration in Humanities

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with concentration in Social Sciences

Bachelor of Arts with concentration in Bioethics

Minor in Philosophy

### Occupational Overview

Philosophy is the study of the most basic moral, legal, aesthetic, religious, and metaphysical ideas by which we understand ourselves and our universe. It is a reasoned pursuit of fundamental truths, a quest for understanding, and a study of principles of conduct. It seeks to establish standards of evidence, to provide rational methods of resolving conflicts, and to create techniques for evaluating ideas and arguments.

### Employment Requirements

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, and qualifies one for entry-level positions in business, nonprofit organizations, and government. Depending upon the student's career interests, graduate/professional study usually leads to careers in law, medicine, ministry, finance, education, psychology, counseling, diplomacy, or ethics.



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### Employers/Industries and Success Strategies:

**Social/Community Services:** Research – Fundraising – Counseling – Social Work – Volunteer coordination – Grant writing – Administration – Nonprofit and social service organizations – Public interest research groups – Museums – Mental health agencies

*Suggested Strategy:* Gain related experience in areas of interest. Volunteer with a social service agency. Obtain a graduate degree in social work or counseling, as well as applicable state licensure for therapy positions.

**Religion/Ministry:** Clergy – Administration – Missions – Local churches/synagogues – Denominational headquarters – Religiously-affiliated schools and colleges/universities – Religious organizations

*Suggested Strategy:* Obtain seminary training for clergy positions. Gain related experience through volunteering with local churches or religious organizations. Develop foreign language skills for international mission work. Seek leadership positions in campus religious organizations. Complete an internship or summer position with a religious camp or missionary organization.

**Education:** Teaching – Research – Administration – Student Affairs – College/universities – Adult education programs

*Suggested Strategy:* Obtain a doctoral degree for university teaching or research. Develop one or more concentrations and take supplemental coursework. Gain related experience in area of interest. Earn a master's degree in a specialized area (e.g., Library Science, College Student Personnel, or Counseling). Seek campus leadership positions, such as residence assistant.

**Government:** Public policy/administration – Research – Regional planning – City management – Intelligence – Foreign Service – Law enforcement – Legislative, executive, or judicial services – Program administration – Elected/appointed leadership – Campaign management – Staff administration – Special interest advocacy

*Suggested Strategy:* Become familiar with government application process. Supplement curriculum with courses in political science or business. Complete an internship in government or related area. Acquire foreign language skills for international positions. Earn a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement. Volunteer with campaigns.

**Ethics:** Medical – Environmental – Research – Hospitals – Consulting services – Research orgs – Health science agencies

*Suggested Strategy:* Obtain graduate degree for most positions. Participate in related professional organizations. Join debate groups. Develop excellent research, verbal and written communication skills.

**Writing:** Editing – Technical writing – Journalism – Advertising – Public relations – Publishing companies – Advertising agencies

*Suggested Strategy:* Complete an internship in appropriate media. Take courses in journalism, advertising, public relations, or English. Become a student member of a related professional group. Serve on college newspaper staff.

**Business:** Management – Sales – Human Resources – Market Research – Finance - Insurance  
*Suggested Strategy:* Minor in business. Gain related experience through internships or part-



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time jobs. Obtain leadership roles.

## Related Career Titles

Some of these jobs require education beyond the bachelor's degree.

Administrative Assistant	Consultant	Lawyer
Announcer	Counselor	Lobbyist
Arts Consultant	Credit Analyst	Management Analyst
Assistant Buyer	Critic	Management Trainee
Associate Pastor	Customer Service Rep	Marketing Research Analyst
Author	Denominational Executive	Minister/Youth Minister
Business Administrator	Diplomat	Minister of Music
Campus Religious Coordin.	Director of Religious Education	Missionary
Campus Minister	Editorial Assistant	Newswriter
Chaplain	Employment Interviewer	Nursing Home Director
Church Building Engineer	Financial Consultant	Paralegal
Church Camp Director	Fund-raiser	Pastor
Church Secretary	Guidance Counselor	Priest
Claims Adjuster	Hospital Administrator	Producer/Director
Clergy	Insurance Underwriter	Professor
Columnist	Journalist	Psychologist
Public Policy Manager	Religious Education Teacher	Salvation Army Worker
Public Relations Rep	Religious Researcher	Seminary Administrator
Public Service Official	Religious Staff Writer	Social Worker
Rabbi	Religious Educational Admin.	Systems Analyst
Religious Bookstore Worker	Sales Representative	Technical Writer
YMCA/YWCA Worker		

## Related Links in the Philosophy Discipline:

### Professional Association Links

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

### Career Planning Links



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Youth With A Mission <http://www.ywam.org/Default.asp?bhcp=1> Philosophy resources on the World Wide Web

<http://library.austin.cc.tx.us/research/w3/humanities/PHL/phl.htm> Why You Don't Know What to Do With a Major in Philosophy

[www.jobweb.com/Resources/Library/Careers\\_In/Choosing\\_Your\\_Major\\_122\\_01.htm](http://www.jobweb.com/Resources/Library/Careers_In/Choosing_Your_Major_122_01.htm)

<http://louisville.edu/philosophy/philclub.html>



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>