What you can do with your
PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

Philosophy Major Skills:

**Critical Thinking**
You interpret complex data, place it in context, and analyze it logically, synthesize and critique an array of information and assumptions to formulate hypotheses and solutions, and weigh controversial questions and issues with respect and fairness.

**Analytical Reasoning**
You analyze arguments to identify patterns, latent assumptions, and salient data and values and discern significant distinctions.

**Oral & Written Communication**
You communicate complex ideas simply to a variety of audiences, respectfully discuss contentious issues, and seek to understand conflicting viewpoints and build consensus.

**Ethical Conduct and Responsible Citizenship**
You think carefully about responsibilities to others, work collaboratively, provide appropriate attribution for others’ ideas, recognize the limitations of your own ideas, and demonstrate thoughtful engagement with society at large.

**Problem Solving**
You evaluate competing solutions to problems, make informed decisions on the basis of reasoning and evidence, and think outside the box to develop new solutions.

**Analytical Reasoning**
You analyze arguments to identify patterns, latent assumptions, and salient data and values and discern significant distinctions.

**Supplement Your Skills With Experience In:**

- Internships, Volunteering & Part-Time Work
- Self-Reflective Career Exploration & Planning
- Fostering Professional Equity & Inclusion
- Student Organizations & Leadership
- Quantitative Data Analysis & Interpretation

**Chart Your Path Forward**

- **Activate Your Handshake Account** for connections to jobs, internships, employer & alumni networking.
- **Explore Career Communities** to discover a wide variety of fields where you can turn your major into success.
- **Get Career & Internship Advising** from SuccessWorks to make a plan, whether you’re a first-year student or about to graduate.

Get Started: successworks.wisc.edu
Put your Philosophy major to WORK

Frequent Alumni Job Titles:
1. Attorney
2. Business Owner
3. Chief Executive Officer
4. Partner/Principal
5. President
6. Director
7. Professor/Instructor
8. Executive Director
9. General Manager
10. Chief Operating Officer

Top Employers of Recent Alumni:
1. Epic
2. American Family Insurance
3. Northwestern Mutual
4. American Express
5. Ashley Furniture Industries
6. Associated Bank
7. Boardman & Clark LLP
8. Botanica Fine Gardens and Landscapes
9. Colorado State University
10. Federal Judiciary

Additional Employers:
- First Weber
- Jenner & Block
- Kantor & Kantor LLP
- Latham & Watkins
- Marquette University
- Saint Paul Public Schools

Post-Graduation Plans:
- 58% Employment
- 35% Continuing Education or Grad School
- 7% Other

Industry of Employment:
1. Information Technology
2. Consumer Goods
3. Finance
4. Healthcare
5. Media
6. Retail
7. Agriculture
8. Arts & Entertainment
9. Consulting
10. Education

Where Alumni Live & Work:
- 27% Wisconsin
- 10% New York
- 9% California
- 9% Illinois
- 5% Minnesota
- 40% Other

"I use epistemic inquiry every day in my career. It is crucial to question why we believe what we believe. Becoming comfortable with re-examining my own closely-held beliefs helps me develop good public policy, and also good people and teams."

Renee Walk, 2006
Programs & Policy Unit Director, WI Department of Employee Trust Funds
Madison, WI

"My philosophy courses taught me the critical thinking and writing skills necessary to think through legal problems and excel at writing briefs. I also learned to challenge every assumption and develop sound reasoning for my assertions and beliefs."

Zachary Pestine, 2013
Attorney, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.
Chicago, IL

Career Communities for Philosophy Majors

SuccessWorks has eight Career Communities to connect you with career advising, resources, and programs. Here are a few suggestions on where Philosophy majors can start.

Not inspired by these options? Visit SuccessWorks to explore more widely.

- Government, Policy, International Affairs & Law
- Non-Profit Management & Education
- Consulting, Finance, Management & Client Relations
- Technology, Data & Analytics

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