
Graduate School

SHOULD YOU ATTEND? PG. 3



DOUBLE MAJOR OR MINOR? PG. 3
WHAT'S THE BENEFIT?



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A PHILOSOPHY B.A.? PG. 2



CAREER PATHS PG 5.
WHAT CAN I DO?

PHILOSOPHY



Life After the B.A.

There are many things you can do with your philosophy degree and many of them may surprise you. The key to whatever path you want to follow is planning and preparation. Read the following manual and discuss it with your philosophy advisor and other mentors—the sooner the better. If you are not interested in planning for life after graduation yet, even that is best done as a conscious decision for good reasons rather than simple procrastination.

Philosophy opens many doors but it only benefits those prepared to walk through them.

What Can I Do with a Philosophy B.A.?

There are many jobs you can do right out of school with a philosophy major. Philosophy develops key skills that majors can use to be successful in a huge number of fields. The key thing is that you identify what you want to do and make a plan to achieve it as early as possible. As with any student from any major, preparing to enter the job market is important. There are several things you should be doing to help you on your career path from day 1 at the university:

- Prepare while you are in school by identifying career paths that interest you and getting internships in that field while in school. Any experience working in a field in which you are seeking a job is a huge bonus and you may make important contacts for your job hunt later.
- Another big help is to conduct informational interviews. An informational interview is where you set an appointment with someone in a field you'd like to work in and talk with them for 20 minutes about what you'd need to do to get into their field. This is also another great way to make contacts you can call up later when you graduate.
- Take classes that will give you a leg up on the competition. Take classes in philosophy and around the university that will help you land your dream job.
- Keep your GPA up! Many employers do not consider applicants with less than a 3.0.

When it is time to graduate, prepare for the job hunt. Even the best preparation may not translate into a job if you do not know the ins and outs of the job hunt. Here are a few things you can do as you near graduation to help insure success:

- Study for the job hunt like you studied philosophy. Read, take notes, and go over the material until you have it down. Read [What Color is Your Parachute?](#), [Wait, How Do I Write This Email?](#), and [The 2-Hour Job Search](#). Job hunting has its own skills you need to develop and conventions you must understand. These three books contain key skills and knowledge.
- One of the advantages of philosophy is that it develops very employable skills. Make sure your applications detail your skills and that you are ready to talk about them on the interview. This is especially important for employers who do not have a background in philosophy. Be prepared to

How Pay Stacks Up

Median annual earnings for select liberal-arts and other degrees, based on years of experience.

LIBERAL-ARTS MAJORS	0-5 yrs	10-20 yrs	20+ yrs
English lang. & literature	\$39,000	\$69,000	\$73,000
History	41,000	72,000	81,000
International relations	44,000	74,000	119,000
Philosophy	42,000	82,000	97,000
Political science	43,000	77,000	89,000
Psychology	38,000	60,000	69,000

OTHER MAJORS

Accounting	\$47,000	\$73,000	\$84,000
Business management	45,000	69,000	81,000
Civil engineering	56,000	89,000	108,000
Computer science	63,000	103,000	116,000
Hospitality management	39,000	60,000	70,000
Nursing	57,000	73,000	75,000

Note: Data is for bachelor's degree Source: PayScale
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

teach them how the skills from philosophy will translate into success in their field.

Double Majors, Minors, & Certificates.

Philosophy offers two different degree plans: one degree plan is for students who only have a philosophy major and the other is for philosophy majors who have a second major or a minor. If you are getting a second major or a minor, the degree hour requirements are fewer in philosophy so that you can easily graduate in four years with two majors.

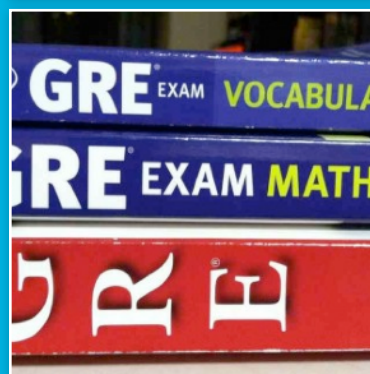
We did this in order to make it possible for students to graduate in four years with another major or minor. It is worth considering a double major or minor to enhance your career prospects or to make yourself a more well-rounded and wise citizen. Again, this counts on you identifying your priorities and making a plan to achieve them. Talking with your advisor in philosophy, other mentors, and spending time thinking about life after the B.A. is important early on.

Graduate School: Yes or No?

Philosophy majors should think about the possibility of attending graduate school. It is not the right choice for everyone but it should be considered before it is dismissed.

Philosophy is excellent preparation for graduate school. The reasoning, abstract thinking, analytical reading, discussion, and writing skills you get in philosophy prepare you very well for graduate school. Advanced degrees are for leaders, people who need to be able to think for themselves and can be trusted to make rational decisions on their own. Philosophy's core skills are just such skills. You might be surprised to learn that philosophy majors are often admitted to graduate programs before students who have majored in the same area. Graduate admissions directors know the kinds of skills philosophy builds and, what's more, philosophers tend to score very well on the graduate school entrance exams. Getting a philosophy degree (and keeping your GPA up) makes you very competitive for graduate school in many areas. Naturally, many of our philosophy graduates turn their philosophy degrees into placement at a top rated graduate school —it's an advantage philosophy majors have over many other

Key Points for Graduate Admissions



- A) Maintain a minimum 3.0 average and take any prerequisite classes for the desired program.
- B) Study for the entrance exam and score well.
- C) Funding can be had through the FAFSA and some programs even fully fund students.

Philosophers Score Higher on the GRE

- Most graduate programs require students to take the GRE (like the ACT or SAT but for graduate school). Philosophy majors score higher than any other degree. Philosophy is the best major for the GRE.

On the LSAT

- The LSAT is for law school admissions. Philosophy majors score second highest with 574—ahead of pre-law!

On the GMAT

- The GMAT is the entrance exam for a Masters in Business Administration (MBA). Philosophy majors score second highest with 574; higher than business majors (547.8).

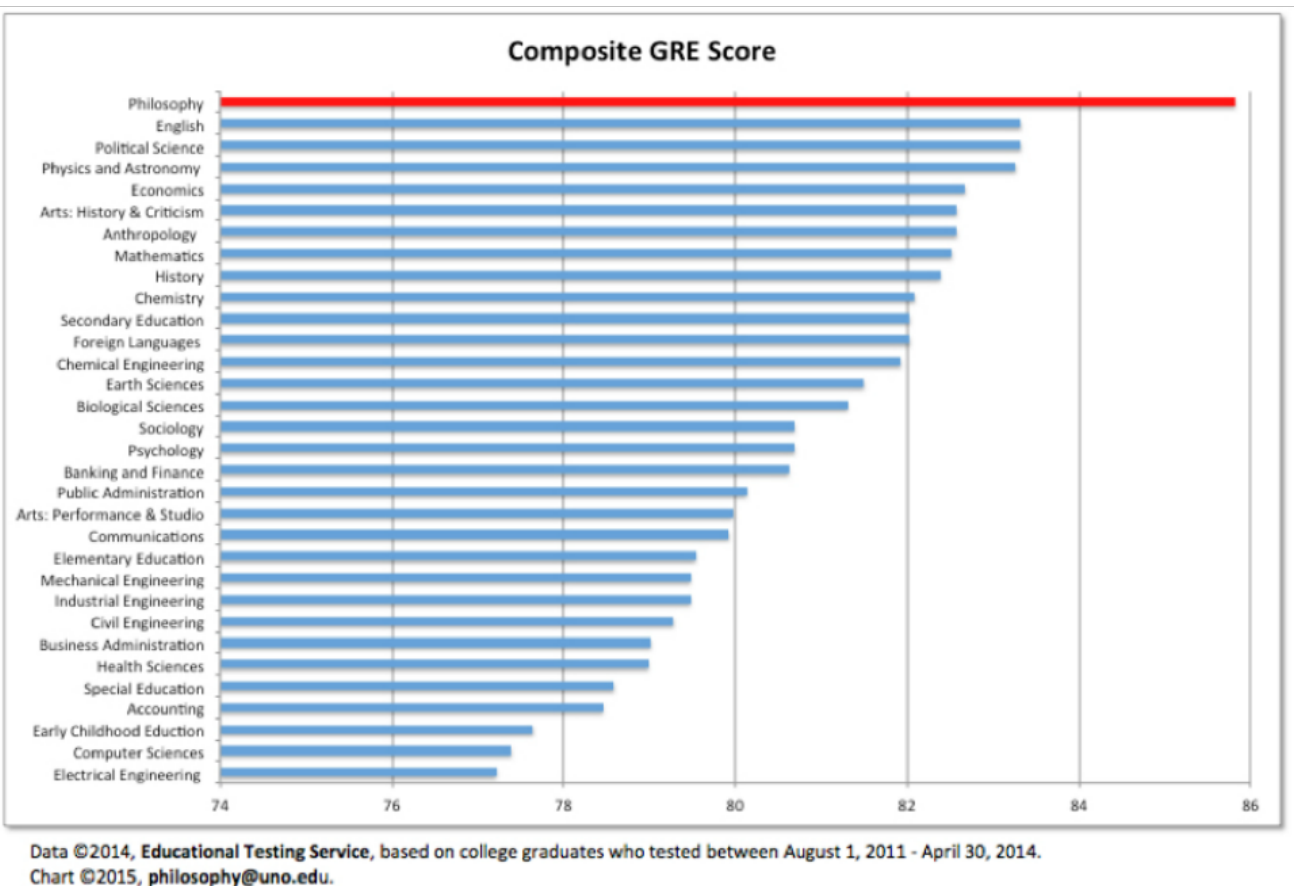
On the MCAT

- The MCAT is for medical school and philosophy majors outscore biology majors. Philosophy majors have the highest rate of acceptance to medical school of any major.

majors. Many of the options in this manual involve graduate school—it is a great way to cash in on the value of a philosophy degree.

The advantages of a graduate degree are many:

- Philosophy majors have an significant advantage in graduate admissions.
- With an advanced degree, you often enter into your field with a higher starting position and salary.
- Unemployment rates are lower for those with graduate degrees.
- It is easier to find a job.
- There are many jobs not open to those without graduate degrees that you'd need an advanced degree to unlock (therapy, law, medicine, library sciences, and more).



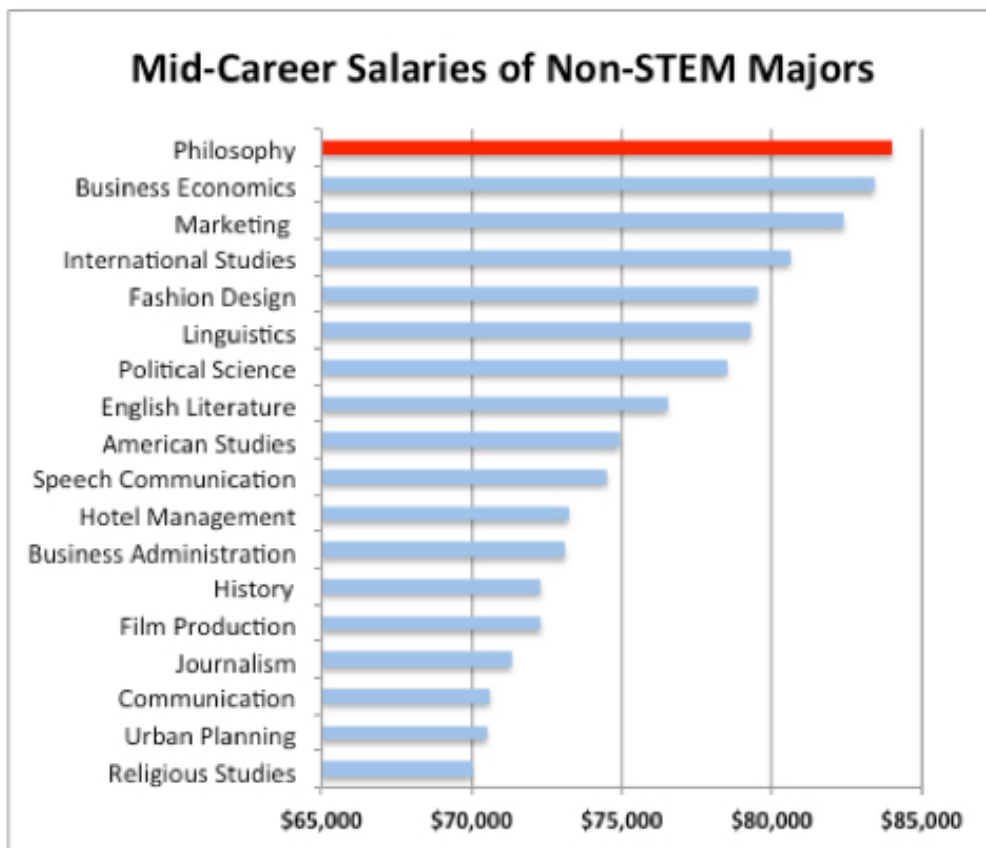
Financing Graduate School.

Many students are understandably concerned about financing graduate school. In most cases, it should not be a major concern. The federal government provides financial aid to graduate students. And all graduate students are considered independent of their parents so that parental income does not have to be included—insuring a maximum of aid for most students. For most, the increased lifetime earnings that result from the master’s degree far outweighs the debt incurred. Those with a graduate degree earn on average \$17,000 more dollars a year than those with a B.A. Moreover, many universities have their own financial aid for graduate students.

Career Paths.

Philosophy majors tend to be very successful in their careers. You can be successful too with a little planning. There are as many ways to go with a philosophy degree as there are paths through life—to many to recount all of them here! In the following pages you will find information and wisdom we have acquired from advising students on some of the more popular paths. You might not find your dream job listed and that is fine. Keep in mind the general principles from the section ‘What Can I Do With a Philosophy B.A.’ and talk with an advisor about a custom plan. Reading the manual for some of the other paths may be helpful for you because you might find an analogous field. We are happy to support students going a new direction. For those that find something on the following

pages that they like, please talk to your advisor about it and ask to be put in touch with a UTRGV philosophy graduate who is currently in graduate school or working in that career area. Mentorship from faculty and former graduates is invaluable in attaining success.



Data ©2015, payscale.com. Chart ©2015, philosophy@uno.edu.

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***** Whether students find something in this manual for themselves or not, they should: 1) Contact their advisor to discuss their thoughts and 2) Ask to be put in touch with a philosophy graduate who is working in their desired career or well along the path to working in that career.**

Career with a Philosophy B.A.

Most careers, almost regardless of what they are, have the same overall plan for success. There are literally hundreds of different career paths you can follow with your degree but the basic approach to most of them is the same. Here is a basic blueprint that you can begin with and tailor to your desired career:

- Keep your grades up. Many employers will not consider hiring employees whose GPA is less than 3.0. This is especially true for larger corporations.
- Consider a minor or elective coursework in an area directly related to your career path. If you wanted to work in insurance, for instance, you might consider a minor in business.
- Think beyond ‘majors’ and ‘minors’ and take the coursework you need for your career. For instance, for insurance you might take a small amount of selected coursework in business and more significant work in statistics. Tailor your education to your needs.
- Experience, experience, experience! Do not underestimate the value of experience when you go to apply for a job. In many cases, experience is of equal or greater value than coursework. While you are in school you should be interning or working in the industry you are aiming at after graduation. All kinds of good things come from that:
 - Knowledge of how to operate profitably in your field.
 - Contacts that you can turn to for jobs.
 - References that you can put on applications.
 - A mentor that can help guide you through the job application process.
 - Someone that will call others on your behalf to find you a job.
 - Etc., etc., etc.
- Prepare for the job hunt by learning about it. Read *What Color is Your Parachute?*, *Wait, How Do I Write This Email?*, and *The 2-Hour Job Search*. Job hunting has its own skills you need to develop and conventions you must understand. These three books contain key skills and knowledge. If you feel tempted not to read them, just think this: ‘Some other applicants are reading them and applying that knowledge. Who is going to get hired, me or them?’
- One of the advantages of philosophy is that it develops very employable skills. Make sure your applications detail how your skills in philosophy add value to you. Make sure you are ready to talk about those skills in the interview. This is especially important for employers who do not have a background in philosophy. Be prepared to teach them how the skills from philosophy will translate into success in their field.
- Consult the American Philosophical Association's *Beyond Academia* for information and links to careers in many, many fields for philosophy B.A.s: <http://www.apaonline.org/page/beyondacademia>.

K-12 Teaching.

We have had many of our majors go on to K-12 teaching by obtaining an alternative teaching certification through Region One. The program is not affiliated with the university but it is located directly next door to the Edinburg campus at 1900 Schunior Road. There is another Region One office located at 405 E. Levee in Brownsville. Visit on the web at <http://www.esc1.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=874>

Our majors have enjoyed raising philosophical issues in the classroom, no matter what their subject areas. We have graduated teachers in Mathematics, Science, English, Government, Economics, and History. You can teach K-12 with a philosophy major but you must meet three requirements:

- GPA of 2.5
- Completed undergraduate degree
- Complete the Project P.a.C.E. program at Region One

If you are interested in teaching after graduation, you will need to prepare in advance by doing three things as soon as possible:

1. Talk with your philosophy advisor
2. Attend a free information session at Region One
3. Plan on taking a minor in an area of concentration directly related to your desired area of teaching.

Keep this in mind too about K-12 teaching: after 10 years teaching, all your federal student loans are 'forgiven,' i.e. your debt is wiped clean!

U.S. Foreign Service.

The U.S. Foreign Service is basically a diplomatic post where you work for the United States government abroad. There are several career tracks within the foreign service: 1) consular; 2) economic; 3) management; 4) political; and 5) public diplomacy. You can find more information here: <https://careers.state.gov/work/foreign-service/officer>.

By far and away the most important part of getting this job is scoring well on Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT). Philosophy majors tend to score better than other majors on these kinds of exams, so philosophy is a good place to base your education. However, you will also need knowledge from Political Science, History, and other departments to do well. The state department has a recommended reading list, a recommended course list, and there are many preparation books and websites.

What is really different about this career path compared with almost any other is how interdisciplinary it is and how little any existing major or minor exactly conforms to its requirements. You will need to do your philosophy B.A. and be very focused in your choice of courses outside of philosophy. Some tips:

- Take logic and critical thinking to help you score well on the test.
- Take the courses on the state department list.
- You need to begin reading the books on the reading list as soon as possible. The reading list is around 4 pages long. Take notes so that you have something to study from and do not have to reread the books when it comes to test time.
- Current events plays a big role in the test. Starting a program of reading major newspapers like the New York Times, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal. Do not ignore the World or International news section. Read magazines like The Atlantic, The Economist, or The New Yorker. At a minimum, pick at least one newspaper and magazine to commit to reading.
- Become fluent in reading, writing, and speaking a foreign language.
- Get FSOT preparation books, use the preparation websites, and sign up for the forum online (was a [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) forum) where test takers discuss their preparations.

AmeriCorps and Peace Corps.

Most people think they only have two options after graduating from college: 1) enter the workforce OR 2) enroll in graduate or professional school. But there is a third option: volunteer! AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps are both programs run by the US Federal Government that will enable you to spend a year or two living in a new place, learning new skills, having life-changing experiences, and making the world a better place. And after you finish your service, your resume will be even stronger as an applicant for jobs or graduate school.

AmeriCorps members serve for one year in the USA, and Peace Corps members serve for two years in a foreign country. Both programs provide a basic cost of living allowance and health insurance during your service period, and you don't have to make any student loan payments while you are serving, so think of these programs as "costing" only time, not money. In return, these programs offer opportunities to make a meaningful difference in the world while providing valuable skills and experiences that will expand your future career opportunities. Both programs also offer financial awards at the end of the service period: AmeriCorps volunteers earn a \$5,775 education award that can be used to repay qualified student loans or pay for future education, and Peace Corps Volunteers receive a cash payment of \$9,450 to transition back to life in the United States.

The work done by these programs is so varied that it is difficult to summarize, but the focus is always on meeting the needs of local communities, whether at home or abroad. AmeriCorps members foster economic development, fight illiteracy, improve health services, meet educational needs, take care of the environment, and more. For more information and for stories from current and former volunteers, see: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps>. Peace Corps members work in over 60 countries, leading grassroots efforts to fight hunger with small-scale farmers, working with nongovernmental organizations and local governments to create economic opportunities, teaching in local schools, promoting health, and creating programs to meet all kinds of local needs. For more information, see: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/>

The best way to prepare for these programs is to browse the opportunities available on their websites while thinking about what knowledge, experiences, and skills you have (or can get before you graduate) that might be useful to people in other communities (note that there are also AmeriCorps opportunities right here in the RGV). These programs are competitive, so you will not be selected simply because you really want to help people (although it is a prerequisite). As with many competitive positions, you will want to do what you can to maintain a high GPA, but these programs really care about your hands-on experience and what skills you bring with you, including the kind of critical thinking and problem-solving skills you will have gained from majoring in Philosophy.

Interested students should feel free to get in touch with Dr. Stehn (alex.stehn@utrgv.edu) or Dr. Alessandri (mariana.alessandri@utrgv.edu), since they each served as AmeriCorps members in the San Francisco Bay Area building affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity. They can also help you get in touch with a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer.

Non-Profit Management.

Non-profit management is for those who want to work at a non-profit, seeking to improve the lives of others, their communities, and to create a better world. Non-profits work on everything from the environment, to poverty, to racism, to voter outreach. Many students falsely feel that this career path is somehow unrealistic or will not pay a reasonable salary. Both of these things are false. A program manager at a nonprofit earns an average salary of \$48,500. There are 1.8 million non-profit organizations in the United States and they all need good people. Working at a non-profit is a realistic career option that does not require a vow of poverty.

Keep this in mind too: after 10 years of work at a non-profit, all of your federal student loans are forgiven! From both your undergraduate and your master's if you have one. (Look at that master's degree again carefully—it may not cost you anything!)

Texas has many good programs for those looking to go into non-profit management. Many of them are graduate degrees like Texas A&M <http://bush.tamu.edu/certificate/cnpm/> and UT Austin <https://lbj.utexas.edu/media-expertise-areas/non-profit-management-and-governance>. Some are certifications, like the one available from UTRGV <http://www.utrgv.edu/gcr/departments/community-engagement-and-assessment/non-profit-center/index.htm> and Austin City College <http://sites.austincc.edu/npo/>. Obviously the graduate degree carries more cache but it is not necessary to have in order to get a job. The certificate certainly helps too but several philosophy graduates have gotten a non-profit job without certificate or master's degree.

The guidelines for getting a job in non-profit management are similar to those for any career (see the section on 'Career With a Philosophy B.A.')

 with a few additions:

- You should consider an additional certification or master's degree non-profit management.
- Volunteer. If you want to be part of the movement that your prospective non-profit job is trying to generate, prove it by volunteering. Get involved.
- Use your volunteer work to meet people and network. People in the non-profit world move around the non-profit world, so your comrade at the protest may end up being the head of organization a few years down the road.
- Read the three books about job hunting listed in the 'Career with a Philosophy B.A.' section and prepare well for the job search.
- Consider a minor in public administration from the Public Affairs department at UTRGV. It is a closely related field.
- Math is important, especially for entrance to the graduate programs. You should certainly take statistics. The field is moving more and more towards requiring calculus to get a master's degree, so consider that as well.

Public Affairs or Administration.

This field is large. What it involves is any kind of business involving the government, including work in the government itself, in non-profits, in businesses closely tied to the state, and in 'non-governmental organizations.' It is possible to get a job in this field and build experience with only a philosophy degree. However, philosophy majors should consider an M.A.: philosophers generally do very well in graduate admissions and graduate work, so the master's can be a great way to wring more value from your philosophy degree and jump ahead in your career.

- Volunteering is an important way to gain experience. You should be as involved as possible in those areas of public affairs that interest you the most: health, environment, gender, poverty, race, etc.
- As with any other job, you need to be prepared for the hiring process. Read the recommendations in the opening sections about preparing for the job hunt.
- Public affairs master's programs tend to be those for people just out of college without work experience. Public administration programs often require you to have worked in the public sector for several years first. Consider this when applying for graduate school.
- Keep your grades up. Having over a 3.0 is important for job hunting and if you want to go to a master's program down the road. The higher the GPA the better.
- Consider a minor in public administration from the Public Affairs department at UTRGV.
- Math is important. You should take statistics. The field is moving more and more towards requiring calculus to get a master's degree, so consider that as well.

Coding / Programming.

Programming is sometime called coding (or scripting). There has been a long time connection between philosophy and programming as the basis of most programming languages is formal logic. We have had many philosophy majors minor and double major in Computer Science. One option that is now exciting are the many coding bootcamps opening. These are relatively short (3-6 months) intensive programs designed to give you the skills to get a job in coding. These programs are full time and you would not be able to go to school or work during the program. If you are interesting in philosophy and coding, consider a double major, minor, or bootcamp to get the skills you need to work in the field. You will very likely have success with any of those paths.

The abstract, conceptual, and logical tools of philosophy will add a lot to your programming. Moreover, you may want to study relevant aspects of philosophy like artificial intelligence and ethical issues connected to technology. Believe it or not, those ethical issues have direct programming relevance. For instance, if you were programming an autonomous vehicle, in case of an accident would you program the car to choose to kill others before the occupants of the vehicle?

Law School.

Law school is always a popular option with philosophy majors. We have had success placing students into the Ivy League, Baylor, UT Austin, and other prestigious institutions. The base of your preparation is your philosophy degree. Philosophy will give you the skills to be successful in law school and on the LSAT—admissions directors know that and philosophy majors place well.

The basics for admission are: 1) your completed undergraduate degree; 2) the LSAT test; 3) the law school application. But if you'd like to be admitted to a top ranked university, you are going to have to differentiate yourself by going above and beyond. Some suggestions:

- Keep your grades up. The median GPA for incoming students at UT Texas Law was 3.7.
- Start preparing for the LSAT early—1st year isn't too early, and 2nd year is starting to get late. The median LSAT score at Texas Law was 167. 167 is a score better than 94.6% of test takers were able to achieve. There is no magic here; if you want that score you'll have to study for it. There are computer programs, websites, books, and courses you can take for the LSAT. Seek help.
- Philosophy majors do 2nd best of any major on the LSAT. Don't panic. Work. Slow and steady wins the race.
- Law schools are looking for a wide variety of qualities besides just grades and LSAT. Look at this page from Texas Law for an idea: <https://law.utexas.edu/admissions/apply/application-review/>
- Background experiences are also important for law schools. It is important to think about how being from the Valley has shaped your desire to do the law. It always helps to take classes in Borderlands and Latin American philosophy to help speak articulately about being Latin@ and its intersection with law (if you are Latin@).
- Think about doing a Law School Preparation Program. UTRGV has LSPI (Law School Preparation Institute) and it is free. You can also search the web for other programs around the state and country.
- Join the Undergraduate Pre-Law Society as soon as possible.
- Political Science is the other traditional home besides philosophy for those preparing for law. Consider taking classes there too in order to gain another perspective and different preparation. Ask a philosophy advisor which professors and classes are most appropriate for your needs.

Medical School.

If you don't like taking the easy path, this could be for you! Philosophy can be a great way into medical school and, in fact, has the highest acceptance rate of any major into medical school. Philosophy majors on average also do better than biology majors on the MCAT. As with law school, being a philosophy major can help you, but it is no golden ticket—you will still have to work your butt off to be successful.

How should you go about preparing for medical school with a philosophy major? The first thing you need to do is to look at the admissions requirements of the universities you will be applying to. This is true whatever major you choose. Some programs have outlandish requirements that you will need to plan for if you that is the school you want to attend. That being said, these are the requirements of UT Austin's Dell Medical School and they are a bit on the low side:

Biology	11 semester hours are required, 2 of which must be labs. We strongly recommend that Genetics be one of these courses.
Physics	8 semester hours are required, 2 of which must be labs.
Chemistry	12 semester hours to be comprised of a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• two semesters of Organic Chemistry and one semester of General Inorganic Chemistry (for a total of 9 semester hours with 3 semester hours of lab)• or two semesters of General Inorganic Chemistry and one Semester of Organic Chemistry (for a total of 9 semester hours with 3 semester hours of lab)
Biochemistry	3 semester hours of Biochemistry.
English	3 semester hours of Composition-based English.
Math	3 semester hours of Statistics.

Many schools require a more rigorous 14 hours of Biology, 8 hours of physics, 8 hours of general chemistry, 8 hours of organic chemistry, 3 of biochemistry, 6 hours of english, and 3 of statistics. This is the degree plan that course recommendations on the following pages are based upon. This tends to be the upper of level of preparation required except that some programs also require calculus. The example degree plan does not include calculus. As stated earlier, it pays to educate yourself about the specific requirements of your desired programs.

What medical schools are pushing more and more today is the development of a wide variety of skills and the ability to apply multidisciplinary perspectives to health. Harvard Medical School's Admissions page is clear that science majors have NO advantage over humanities majors: "Students are urged to strive for a balanced and liberal education rather than specialized training. No preference is given to applicants who have majored in the sciences over those who have majored in the humanities." In bold, and the only section in bold on their admissions page, Harvard writes:

“We adhere to the important principle that the college years are not, and should not be, designed primarily to prepare students for professional schools. Instead, the college years should be devoted to a creative engagement in the elements of a broad, intellectually expansive liberal arts education.”

Philosophy can be a great space to develop those liberal arts skills and to integrate your learning in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities into a signature project to impress admissions boards. Your admission comes down to, more than your major, your work ethic and high standards.

Admissions into medical school is hyper-competitive. Philosophy has the highest rate of acceptance to medical school of any major and even philosophers only achieve 50% admissions success. If you want to get admitted you will have to go well above and beyond just ‘passing’ your classes.

- Average GPA for students accepted into medical school amongst all Texas Medical schools is about 3.75. If you want to go to medical school, you are going to have to score almost entirely A’s and the few grades that are not an A must be B’s.
- The average MCAT score for admissions is about 510. That is a score better than 83% of test takers. You will need to start preparing to take the MCAT sophomore year at the latest. Websites, programs, books, and courses will be your tools.
- You need to shadow doctors each summer. Talk to your advisor about how to arrange this.
- You will need to distinguish yourself in other areas like student research, volunteering, leadership, and more. Talk with your advisor about developing a plan for your achievements outside of the classroom. At a minimum you need to develop an interdisciplinary (combining philosophy and other disciplines like biology, chemistry, and mathematics) research project that you present at the on campus Engaged Scholar Symposium. It is highly recommended to seek university funding (it is easily available) to present at a conference at another university as well.
- Join the Pre-Med society. It is a valuable source of news about opportunities on campus for MCAT preparation, pre-med summer programs and more.
- Look at the requirements for acceptance into medical school into schools that interest you. Links for [Harvard](https://hms.harvard.edu/departments/admissions/applying/requirements-admission): <https://hms.harvard.edu/departments/admissions/applying/requirements-admission> ; [Dell Medical School](http://dellmedschool.utexas.edu/prospective-students/selection-criteria) <http://dellmedschool.utexas.edu/prospective-students/selection-criteria> ; and the [American Association of Medical Colleges](https://www.aamc.org/download/271072/data/scientificfoundationsforfuturephysicians.pdf) report on what a prepared medical student should look like <https://www.aamc.org/download/271072/data/scientificfoundationsforfuturephysicians.pdf>
- On the following page is a degree plan, starting from year 1/semester 1. The degree plan is for a [Philosophy Major and Chemistry Minor](#). If you begin on it later, you can catch up by taking more credits each semester (the credit load on the plan is not maxed out) and summer school. If you wish to add a [Biology Minor](#), you need only take one more course in biology at any level. If you’d like to add a [Biochemistry Minor](#), you’d need to add CHEM 4302 Advanced Biochemistry and either 1) CHEM 3103 Biochemistry Lab and CHEM 4203 Advanced Biochemistry Lab or 2) CHEM 4306 Special Topics in Biochemistry.

Philosophy Major & Chemistry Minor Road Map			
First Year			
Semester	Hrs	Course	Course Title
Fall Year 1	4	BIOL 1406	General Biology
	3	CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
	1	CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I Lab
	3	PHIL 1301	Intro To Philosophy
Sem. Hrs:	3	HIST 1301	American History I
14	3	UNIV 1301	Learning Framework
Spring Year 1	4	BIOL 1407	General Biology II
	3	CHEM 1312	General Chemistry II
	1	CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II Lab
Sem. Hrs.:	3	HIST 1302	American History II
14	3	PHIL 3 or 4XXX	Philosophy Elective
Summer Year 1	-----	Shadowing	2 Doctors, 2 Weeks Each
		Test Prep	MCAT Workshops & Study
Second Year			
Fall Year 2	3	CHEM 2323	Organic Chemistry I
	1	CHEM 2123	Organic Chemistry I Lab
	3	1, 2, 3, or 4XXX	Open Elective
	3		Social and Behavioral Core Req.
Sem. Hrs:	3	PHIL 3301	Ancient Philosophy
16	3	ENGL 1301	Rhetoric and Comp 1
Spring Year 2	3	ENGL 1302	Rhetoric and Comp 2
	3	PHIL 1340	Intro to Logic
	3	3 or 4XXX	Open Elective
	3	CHEM 2325	Organic Chemistry II
Sem. Hrs:	1	CHEM 2125	Organic Chemistry II Lab
13	3	PHIL 1330	Philosophy, Art, and Film/ Art Core Req
Summer Year 2		Shadowing	2 Doctors, 2 Weeks Minimum
		Test Prep	MCAT Workshops & Study

Philosophy Major & Chemistry Minor Road Map

Third Year			
Fall Year 3	3	PHIL 3 or 4XXX	Diversity & Pluralism Requirement
	3	3 or 4XXX	Open Elective
	4	PHYS 1401	General Physics I
Sem. Hrs:	3	CHEM 3303	Biochemistry
16	3	MATH 1343	Intro to Biostatistics
Spring Year 3	3	PHIL 3000+	Research Ethics (Pearson)
	3	PHIL 3 or 4XXX	Value Theory Requirement Philosophy
Sem. Hrs:	4	PHYS 1402	General Physics II
14	4	BIOL 4400	Biological Communication
Summer Year 3		Shadowing	2 Doctors, 2 Weeks Minimum
			NOTE: TAKE SPRING MCAT
Fourth Year			
Fall Year 4	3	BIOL 4319/3301	Medical Entomology/Evolution
Sem. Hrs:	3	PHIL 3301	Modern Philosophy
	3	3 or 4XXX	Open Elective
	3	3 or 4XXX	Open Elective
15	3	POLS 2301	Government/Pol. Science I
Spring Year 4	3	PHIL 43XX	Epistemology or Metaphysics
	3	3 or 4XXX	Open Elective
	3	PHIL 3 or 4XXX	Philosophy Elective
Sem. Hrs:	3	POLS 2302	Government/Pol. Science 2
15	3	PHIL 4380	Senior Seminar
Summer Year 4			

Occupational Therapy.

Occupational therapists help people to perform the everyday activities they need to in order to work and live. You need an advanced degree to work in this field and we have had students pursue this path out of philosophy. It is a very competitive field, and as with applicants to Medical School, philosophy can be a great help. First, occupational therapy requires the GRE on which philosophy majors regularly score the highest averages. Second, if you pursue your philosophy degree wisely, taking courses that will allow you to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of human life, human physiology, and the role of therapy in adapting human physiology to that life, then you can have an edge.

- This medical program, like almost all others, is very competitive. You will need top grades. You will certainly need above a 3.5; it is not unusual for the average GPA for an admitted student to be in the 3.7-3.8 range.
- You need to be especially strong in the required courses. It is standard to have above a 3.75 in those classes.
- The required courses are: Anatomy & Physiology I (Lecture & Lab); Anatomy & Physiology II (Lecture & Lab); Basic Statistics; Psychology of Lifespan; Abnormal Psychology; Anthropology or Sociology; Biomechanics; General Physics I (Lecture & Lab); Technical Writing; Medical Terminology.
- Make sure you check the specific prerequisites of the program you are applying to. They can change and they differ.
- You will also need strong GRE scores. Around the 60% percentile on the quantitative, 75% on the verbal, and 4.5 on the writing.
- Make sure and shadow other Occupational Therapists. You should have 150-200 shadowing hours by the time you apply. Ask your advisor for help on how to gain permission to shadow someone.
- Volunteering, research projects, work experience, foreign language skills, shadowing, etc., all count. You will need to think about ways you can differentiate yourself besides grades and GRE. This is also typical and you'll need to do it to be successful.

Library and Information Sciences.

A librarian does a lot more than shelve books today. For more information on this rich and interesting job search online but, in short, librarians today have to be effective advocates for placing needed information and information gathering skills in the community. This involves a significant electronic aspect today. There are also jobs working with the preservation of older materials, maps, corporate libraries, and many other things. Competition for slots in Library Sciences and Library and Information Sciences are thankfully not as fierce as in the medical field and law. However, there is no undergraduate degree in this field and you will have to attend graduate school to become certified. Some things to keep in mind:

- You will want to attend an American Library Association (ALA) accredited program. In Texas, there are only three: Texas Women's University, UT Austin, University of North Texas.
- Schools vary greatly in their requirements. Some accept almost everyone who has over a 3.0 GPA while the most prestigious programs are more difficult to enter. UT Austin is a top 10 school and students usually have a GRE at the 80th percentile. Choose where you apply by your credentials.
- Work or volunteer work at a library or related positions is helpful. Libraries deal with the communication of information and information skills to the public so you can think broadly and creatively here about what related experience would mean. Relevant experience does not have to be in a library.

Master's of Business Administration (MBA).

By some surveys, the Bachelor's of Business Administration (BBA) is the most underemployed degree. It is not that the degree is not valuable; it is that so many people have one. There are many jobs but many more applicants. The result is that many are now looking at the MBA degree because you are more likely to find a job with it than a BBA, start at a higher level in business, and earn more money, both immediately and across one's career. The great thing about the MBA degree is that many programs do not require previous business coursework or experience. A philosophy degree and MBA can be a great combination of reasoning skills, independent thinking, data analysis, and business know-how. It is a great path for a student who wants to be a **leader** in business.

- For many MBA programs there are not any formal requirements beyond a grade point average and the GMAT or GRE. You will need to keep your grades above a 3.0 at minimum and study for your GRE or GMAT.
- Although business coursework is not required for all programs, it does not mean it would not be a good idea. Consider taking a business minor or a few courses. Many MBA programs, like UTRGV's, will give students without previous business coursework an extra preparatory series of graduate level business courses to take before students enter into their regular coursework. These courses will often be waived if you have taken them previously.
- For the programs that require previous business coursework, a minor in business will be very helpful in getting accepted to the MBA. Entrance requirements vary by school so make sure and research the requirements you need to meet to attend your dream school.
- As with an graduate program, the better your grades and test scores, the better the programs you can apply to, and the more doors that will open to you. Work hard on your GPA and start preparing as soon as possible for the GMAT or GRE (if you know that your desired program accepts the GRE).
- Students need to be proficient in mathematics. MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Models is necessary. Additional course work in upper division statistics would be helpful.

Marketing PhD.

A doctorate in marketing does not necessarily mean wanting to become a marketer or agreeing with the methods and the aims of marketing. A marketing PhD studies marketing like a historian studies history: its study does not imply complicity. UTRGV has an excellent marketing faculty and many of them are critical of marketing—and use a lot of philosophy to pull off those critiques. If you like philosophy, the mass media, and business systems, a Marketing PhD is something to look into. If you want to work in marketing, there are many jobs available, and Marketing professorships are more easily had and pay roughly twice as much as philosophy professorships.

- As with the MBA, some programs do not require prior business coursework. However, it is best to come prepared. Make sure that you have at least taken the coursework in statistics necessary. Even the remedial programs given by graduate schools to get non-business majors up to speed in business will assume a good knowledge of statistics.
- Your application will also be more effective if you have taken some business or marketing coursework; you will appear more credible when you speak of your interest if you can show it through having taken some courses.
- Speak with Dr. Fuat Firat and Dr. Mohammad Zolfagharian in marketing at UTRGV. Both are friendly to philosophy students and are well respected and connected in marketing.
- We have successfully placed students in marketing programs, with and without business coursework. The keys are the same as acceptance into any graduate program: GPA, GRE or GMAT, and achievements outside of the classroom (research work, multiple languages, volunteer work, etc.)

Philosophy Professor / PhD

If there is one path on here harder than that of medical doctor, it is the philosophy professorship. It is not unusual for top programs in philosophy to have a 5-7% acceptance rate. Then, once students gain their PhD, less than half find a tenure track job. If you want to have a decent chance at a tenured professorship you are going to have to get accepted into one of the top schools.

If your goal is a PhD but not necessarily a professorship, there are many more possibilities open. Many doctoral programs in philosophy are completely funded—and really, these are the only ones you should be seriously considering. In exchange for grading papers or teaching Introduction to Philosophy, schools will waive their fees and provide a small stipend each month. You can get your philosophy PhD, have a blast doing it, and not incur debt. However, unless you are in a very competitive program, you should not expect a professorship at the end of it. What can you do with philosophy PhD? A philosophy PhD will open doors for you in other graduate programs (a friend of mine got his philosophy PhD and then after finishing applied for law school at the #1 law school, Yale, and was accepted). It will also open doors into other careers. You can look here for a report on jobs outside of academia with a philosophy PhD: <http://www.apaonline.org/members/group.aspx?id=110435>.

If you want to obtain a philosophy professorship, here are some initial points to consider:

- You should aim for a 3.7-4.0 GPA.
- Your GRE scores should be very high. You will certainly want to score above 160 (85th percentile) and it is not uncommon for the average score at top universities to be at 167 (98th percentile). Philosophy majors score the best on the GRE of any major and you will be competing against philosophy majors for admissions to philosophy programs. Get your GRE books, websites, and courses going early and often.
- You will need to take student research very seriously. Work with a professor to develop a research paper and presentation. Present on campus and obtain funding from the university (pretty easily had) to travel and present the paper elsewhere. Try to publish your essay in one of the many undergraduate philosophy journals.
- Languages are a bonus. If you can read in at least one other language besides English, that will help. Two is even better.
- Apply to summer programs in philosophy. For example, PIKSI (piksi.org). Many of these are focused on women and non-traditional philosophy PhD's (read: not a straight white male). And some are also fully funded.
- Join the gradcafe.com and frequent the philosophy section. You will find tips on programs and opportunities.
- Find other ways to distinguish yourself with volunteer work or experience relating to your desired field of study.

- Of course, if you just want the PhD and do not want to bother being competitive, you will need reasonable scores and grades. Focus on finding somewhere you will be happy and well enough compensated that you won't acquire debt.

Humanities Professor

Some of the fields in the humanities are not as competitive as philosophy. But they are still very, very tough. You can consider the recommendations regarding a philosophy professorship as applying here too.