

Philosophy Program Requirements

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

(Total: 36 Credit Hours)

Required Courses (21 credit hours): Two uniquely-numbered 100-level courses (e.g. PI101, PI102, PI103); two uniquely-numbered 200-level courses; two uniquely-numbered 300-level courses; and PI481.

Electives (15 credit hours): Any philosophy (PI) course, of which 9 credits must be upper division; or PS326.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR REQUIREMENTS

(Total: 18 Credit Hours)

Required Courses (12 credit hours): PI101 or PI102 or PI103; PI210 or PI220 or PI230; one 300-level course; and PI481.

Electives (6 credit hours): Upper-division Philosophy (PI) courses; or PS326.

ETHICS MINOR REQUIREMENTS

(Total: 18 Credit Hours)

Required courses (9 credit hours): PI102, PI220, PI481

Electives (9 credit hours): PI410, PI481, BA406, PA405, NU326, NU420

ETHICS CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

(Total: 12 Credit Hours)

Required Courses (6 credit hours): PI102, PI220

Electives (6 credit hours): PI410, PI481, BA406, PA405, NU326, NU420

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University of Guam

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences



PHILOSOPHY

**"The unexamined life
is not worth living."**

- Socrates

The Philosophy Program

Philosophy is the discipline that engages in a critical inquiry into the most fundamental questions of humanity: What is truth? What is knowledge? How should I live? By asking these questions, philosophy prepares students to become strong thinkers, and provides students with a set of intellectual skills, including reading, writing and oral presentation skills, that can be applied to problems in both their everyday life and at work. Philosophy also acts as an excellent complementary major to a range of courses of study, offering a rigorous theoretical perspective on topics in science, business, medicine, legal studies, literary studies, and the study of history and society. The skills cultivated in our program are highly sought after in a wide range of roles and by the admissions committees for all graduate degrees, including medicine, law and business.

In the process of becoming a philosopher, students will take on board the following Program Learning Objectives. By the end of a philosophy degree, students will be able to:

- Justify positions with reasoned argument in a rigorous way
- Express themselves orally and in writing precisely and clearly
- Understand and engage with perspectives different to their own
- Analyze real-world problems using philosophical tools
- Reconstruct the positions of authors through the close reading of texts
- Practice philosophical virtues in their interactions with others



Philosophy Careers

You find successful philosophy graduates in every field, and a philosophy will make you a more effective employee no matter what you plan to do in your career. However, some jobs are particularly well-suited to our graduates. For instance, philosophers tend to do particularly well in the following kinds of roles:

- Lawyer
- Public Policy Analyst
- Politician
- Journalist
- Information Technology Professional
- Stockbroker
- Entrepreneur
- Business Executive
- Pastor
- Publisher



Philosophy degrees are also very well-suited for students who intend to attend graduate school. For instance, philosophy graduates have amongst the highest scores on the GMAT Master of Business Administration (MBA) entrance exams. Philosophy graduates have the highest average scores on the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test), and around 82% of philosophy majors who apply to Law School are accepted (compared to 52% of criminal justice majors and 61% of pre-law majors). Philosophy graduates have the highest chance of being accepted to Medical School (50%), compared with an average of 37% for other majors, with biology at 35% and chemistry at 39%. Finally, philosophy graduates have the highest average scores in the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) by a considerable margin.



Incomes for Philosophy Graduates

By mid-career, the salaries of Philosophy graduates have the greatest increase and are amongst the highest of any major.

| Major | Starting Median Salary | Mid-Career Median Salary |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Electrical Engineering | \$60,900.00 | \$103,000.00 |
| Aerospace Engineering | \$57,700.00 | \$101,000.00 |
| Math | \$45,400.00 | \$92,400.00 |
| Philosophy | \$39,900.00 | \$81,200.00 |
| Chemistry | \$42,600.00 | \$79,900.00 |
| Marketing | \$40,800.00 | \$79,600.00 |
| Political Science | \$40,800.00 | \$78,200.00 |
| Accounting | \$46,000.00 | \$77,100.00 |
| Architecture | \$41,600.00 | \$76,800.00 |
| Information Technology (IT) | \$49,100.00 | \$74,800.00 |
| Business Management | \$43,000.00 | \$72,100.00 |
| History | \$39,200.00 | \$71,000.00 |
| Nursing | \$54,200.00 | \$67,000.00 |
| Biology | \$38,800.00 | \$64,800.00 |
| English | \$38,000.00 | \$64,700.00 |
| Anthropology | \$36,800.00 | \$61,500.00 |
| Psychology | \$35,900.00 | \$60,400.00 |
| Sociology | \$36,500.00 | \$58,200.00 |
| Hospitality & Tourism | \$37,800.00 | \$57,500.00 |
| Criminal Justice | \$35,000.00 | \$56,300.00 |
| Music | \$35,900.00 | \$55,000.00 |
| Education | \$34,900.00 | \$52,000.00 |

¹ (The Wall Street Journal, http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees_that_Pay_you_Back-sort.html)