PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy students develop many transferable skills that can be can be utilized in a variety of careers and jobs, demonstrating the flexibility and capacity for growth that employers find valuable. These skills include analytical, organizational, research, as well as oral and written communication.
Other skills emphasized in philosophy that are attractive to employers are idea generation, problem formulation and problem solving, diverse data integration, adaptation to change, the ability to elicit hidden assumptions, persuasion, and summarization of complicated material.

It is important for philosophy students to identify potential career goals and seek out the experiences and education required to enter those fields. An undergraduate degree qualifies one for entry-level positions in business, nonprofit organizations, and government. Graduate and/or professional studies usually lead to careers in law, medicine, ministry, finance, psychology, counseling, diplomacy, ethics, and related areas.

Develop aptitudes for analytical thinking, logic, and statistics in order to apply philosophy to a broad range of professions such as law, government, finance, management, consulting, and related areas. Seek related summer or part-time work experience or internships in area(s) of interest. Join related student or professional organizations. Work toward leadership roles. Conduct informational interviews or shadow professionals in fields of interest.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Teaching
- Research
- Administration
- Student Affairs
- Academic affairs
- Medical/Clinical
- Bioethics
- Defense
- Contractual
- Environmental
- Law-related
- Corporate
- Nonprofit or public interest
- Government
- Mediation
- Other specialties

COMMON EMPLOYERS

Colleges and universities
Professional or graduate schools, including medical
Adult education programs
Vocational-technical educational programs
Hospitals
Medical and professional schools
Colleges and universities
Bioethic centers
Research institutes
Medical organizations (e.g., American Medical Association)
Health science funding agencies
Environmental agencies
Law firms specializing in health or bioethics
Consulting services
Law firms
Federal, state, and local government
Private practice
Corporations

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Academy of Religion
- American Association for Employment in Education
- American Bar Association
- American Philosophical Association
- American Philosophical Practitioners Association
- American Society for Bioethics and Humanities
- Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory
- Association for Practical and Professional Ethics
- International Society for Environmental Ethics
- National Association for Community Mediation
- Society for Business Ethics

STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Become an effective writer.
- Earn a master's degree in a specialized area (e.g., College Student Personnel, Higher Education Administration, or Library and Information Sciences to work in other roles at post-secondary institutions).
- Seek campus leadership positions such as peer mentor, orientation leader, or resident assistant.
- Build strong interpersonal skill
- Plan to obtain a doctorate in philosophy for academic research and teaching positions. Some hospitals and healthcare organizations prefer to hire individuals who also have a clinical background in nursing or medicine. Another potential educational path is to earn a law degree.
- Complete an internship in a relevant setting while in graduate school to gain experience.
- Participate in professional organizations in ethics.
- Develop excellent research skills as well as verbal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrate commitment to ethical issues through involvement and volunteer experiences.
- Investigate interdisciplinary degrees in bioethics offered at some universities.