

# CAREERS IN PHILOSOPHY



Some people mistakenly believe that the only career option for philosophy majors is college teaching, but philosophy is a great preparation for just about any career. Indeed, former philosophy majors have gone on to amazing success in fields as diverse as politics (Bill Clinton, Rudolph Giuliani), law (Stephen Breyer, David Souter), the arts (Phillip Glass, George Carlin, Woody Allen, Steve Martin, Bruce Lee, Harrison Ford), religion (Pope John Paul II, the Dalai Lama), business (Carly Fiorina, George Soros), and literature (Elie Wiesel, T.S. Eliot).

The kinds of skills and perspectives that philosophy develops are useful in almost every field of employment. Philosophy majors are trained to be critical thinkers, to have a high level of moral awareness, and to be proficient oral and written communicators—skill sets that are highly prized by prospective employers. Philosophy graduates can be found working as teachers, lawyers, diplomats, researchers, social workers, business people, entrepreneurs, and in high-level positions in nonprofit and governmental organizations.

Among the fields in which many former philosophy majors can be found are:

- Pre-Law
- Public and Governmental Service
- Business
- Childhood and Adolescent Education
- Medicine
- Social Work and Social Services
- Philosophy for Library Sciences

If any of these fields are of interest to you, you may want to see how a degree in philosophy (perhaps combined with a second major in another field) can help you to achieve your career goals.

## ***In Their Own Words***

*"What I plan to achieve with a dual major in Philosophy and Art is an advanced understanding of the nature of art. The critical thinking and problem solving skills that I receive from my philosophy courses help me explore new concepts that push me to experiment with my artwork. This will add to my portfolio that I must present when applying for graduate school. As an artist, you must always question what 'art' is. The philosophical approach not only helps me understand what art is, it helps me consider the possibilities of what art can be." (Felipe Alcantara, dual major, philosophy and art)*