

Bachelor of Arts: Philosophy

Bachelor of Arts: Philosophy/Religious Studies

Minor: Philosophy

Philosophy is concerned with the basic aspects of the human experience—understanding reality, clarifying the nature of interactions between individuals and society, and coming to terms with the problems of existence and ultimate values. Philosophers apply critical thinking to questions of values and beliefs and their rational defense. They help individuals make sense of their world in scientific, evaluative, and practical terms. Study in philosophy develops skills in critical thinking, communication, and analysis. A philosophy major is ideal for students who wish to pursue entrance into graduate programs or law school, and/or careers in public affairs, theology, business, education, and media. Employers recommend one or more internships to be successful and competitive when entering this field.

Career types associated with Philosophy

(Is this a good fit for you? Are you a...)

- Artistic - “Creator”
- Investigative - “Thinker”
- Enterprising - “Leader”

Skills associated with Philosophy major¹

- Ability to formulate and defend positions
- Ability to make observations, evaluations, and make appropriate decisions
- Proficiency in reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and analytical reasoning
- Ability to organize, conduct and clearly explain research
- Ability to summarize ideas and material
- Ability to analyze, interpret and convey information to others
- Strong listening, clarifying, questioning, and responding skills

Courses Philosophy majors typically enjoy¹

- English
- History
- Humanities
- Literature
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Theology

Common interests of Philosophy majors

- Participating on a debate team
- Playing word games and games of strategy
- Visiting libraries and attending lectures
- Listening to radio talk shows
- Participating in political rally or campaigns

For more information about the major

Contact the Philosophy Department,
315 Old Main, 610-683-4230, or
visit www.kutztown.edu/Philosophy

KU Majors related to Philosophy

English, Political Science, History, Mathematics,
Music, and Physics

Artistic students may also be interested in:

Advertising*, Art Education, Communication Design,
Communication Studies, Crafts, Elementary Education,
German Studies, International Studies*, Library
Science, Literature*, Music Education, Public
Relations*, Secondary Education, Spanish, Studio Art,
Women’s Studies*.

*minor only

FOUR STEPS TO SUCCESS

EXPLORE

DISCOVER

EXPERIENCE

IMPLEMENT

1ST YEAR

- Enroll in the Career Exploration Certificate.
- Attend info sessions to learn about career development and personal branding.
- Take a career assessment to identify and confirm interests.
- Get involved in campus clubs and organizations.
- Develop basic workplace skills through jobs or volunteer work.
- Talk with professors, family, and friends about career ideas.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals working in fields of interest.
- Develop a relationship with your professors and faculty advisor.

2ND YEAR

- Meet with CDC career coach.
- Attend info sessions to learn about resume writing, and externships.
- Confirm your choice of major and consider options for double major or minor.
- Research careers of interest.
- Complete a job shadowing (externship) experience.
- Seek meaningful employment or volunteer work in a field related to your major.
- Explore options for undergraduate research and study abroad.
- Write a resume and have it reviewed by the CDC.
- Manage your online presence.

3RD YEAR

- Enroll in the Career Success Certificate.
- Complete an internship and/or undergraduate research.
- Attend info sessions about internships, interviewing, job search strategies, and grad school.
- Build a LinkedIn profile and continue to monitor your online presence.
- Complete a mock interview.
- Build skills through research projects, part-time employment, and volunteer work.
- Participate in employer panels, site visits & networking events.
- Attend internship & job fairs.
- Take on a leadership role in a student organization or work.
- Consider graduate school options and prepare for admissions tests.

4TH YEAR

- Attend your Senior Kick-off and other info sessions to prepare for job search/grad school.
- Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
- Create cover letter drafts.
- Gain experience through internships and/or undergraduate research.
- Secure references for job/grad school applications.
- Create your "30 second" commercial/elevator pitch.
- Meet with CDC to develop job search strategies.
- Research employers.
- Network with professionals through events and social media.
- Join a professional organization in your discipline.
- Attend the senior etiquette luncheon or dinner.
- Participate in job fairs and on-campus interviewing.

Sample Career Titles

Philosophy majors can be found working in a wide variety of career fields. Here are just some career titles that may be of interest. Please note that some jobs may require further education and training. To learn more about these careers, visit <http://online.onetcenter.org> or www.bls.gov/oco.

- Announcer
- Arts Consultant
- Author
- Business Administrator
- Buyer
- Campus Religious Coordinator
- Church Camp Director
- Clergy
- Consultant
- Counselor
- Credit Analyst
- Critic
- Customer Service Representative
- Denominational Executive
- Diplomat
- Director of Religious Education
- Editor
- Employment Interviewer
- Financial Consultant
- Fundraiser
- Guidance Counselor
- Hospital Administrator
- Insurance Underwriter
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Lobbyist
- Management Analyst
- Management Trainee
- Marketing Research Analyst
- Missionary
- News Writer
- Nursing Home Director
- Paralegal
- Pastor/Priest
- PEACE Corps Volunteer
- Producer/Director
- Professor
- Psychologist
- Public Policy Manager
- Public Relations Representative
- Public Service Official
- Religious Bookstore Owner
- Religious Education Teacher
- Religious Researcher
- Religious Staff Writer
- Research Assistant
- Sales Representative
- Salvation Army Worker
- Social Worker
- Systems Analyst
- Technical Writer
- YMCA/YWCA Worker

Common Internship Sites and Employers

Philosophy majors often find internships and employment in the following fields/industries.

- Consulting Firms
- State/Federal Government
- Colleges/Universities
- Religious Associations
- Publishing/Media Companies
- Hospitals
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Business & Industry



Handshake is the primary online resource
for preparing and connecting students and alumni with employers.
www.kutztown.edu/handshake

Useful Websites for Philosophy Majors

Whether you are researching related career fields, applying for internships or jobs, or planning to join a professional association, these websites are for you!

Industry/Employment Information

O*NET Online
www.onetonline.org

Occupational Outlook Handbook
www.bls.gov/ocoml

Internships.com
www.internships.com

Internet Nonprofit Center
www.nonprofits.org

Idealist: The Non-Profit Career Center
www.idealists.org

Career Handbook for Philosophy Majors
<http://web.phil.ufl.edu/ugrad.ugcrhbk>

Philosophy Now
www.philosophynow.org

Philosophical Gourmet Report
www.philosophicalgourmet.com

Episteme Links
www.epistemelinks.com

Philosophy Pages
www.philosophypages.com

Professional Associations

American Philosophical Association
www.apaonline.org

American Philosophical Society
www.amphilsoc.org

The Society for the Advancement
of American Philosophy
www.american-philosophy.org

Society for Medieval and Renais-
sance Philosophy
www.smrphil.org

American Council of Learned
Societies
www.acls.org

Association for Symbolic Logic
www.aslonline.org

American Society for Aesthetics
www.aesthetics-online.org

Related Area Employers

Allentown Art Museum
Alliance for Sustainable Communities -
Lehigh Valley
Altitude Marketing
ArtsQuest
Carbon County Adult Probation
Chester County Intermediate Unit
DaVinci Science Center
Historic Bethlehem Museum & Sites
Kutztown Area Historical Society
Kutztown University: Philosophy
Department
Kutztown University: Small Business
Development Center
Make-A-Wish Philadelphia
Maritime Academy Charter School
The Philadelphia Project
The Washington Center
Valley Youth House

Building Your Resume for a Career in Philosophy

Building a strong resume for your career field starts long before you ever start your job search. Employers want to hire graduates who not only have the necessary educational background but also have experience applying that knowledge.

Phoenix Philosophy

pphil000@live.kutztown.edu, 555-555-5555

QUALIFICATIONS

- Fluency in Spanish and English
- Experience working with diverse populations
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong problem solving and analytical abilities
- Knowledge of research techniques and methods
- Proficient in SPSS, Linux and Microsoft Office

EDUCATION

B.A. Kutztown University of Pennsylvania Kutztown, PA
Major: Philosophy Dec 20xx
Dual Minor: International Studies & History
GPA: 3.66
Dean's List Fall 20xx- Spring 20xx
University of Valladolid Valladolid, Spain
Study Abroad: 6 credits completed June 20xx

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

York County Heritage Trust York, PA
Library & Archives Intern Summer 20xx
• Researched local historical events and investigated potential inaccuracies
• Prepared and organized archival material
• Digitized photograph and manuscript collection
• Transcribed oral histories
Extern Oct 20xx
• Shadowed Archivist and observed process of conserving local historic collections

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Acculturation Potential of Second Generation Ecuadorian Immigrants Spring 20xx
Kutztown University, Dr. Culture
• Designed an original research project, conducted participant interviews and utilized field observations
• Consulted with professorial advisor, conducted in-depth literature review and analyzed ethnographic data
Life & Death: A Philosophical Study of End of Life Cultural Perceptions Fall 20xx
Kutztown University, Dr. Philosophy
• Developed an informed consent document for all research participants in accordance with ethical guidelines
• Utilized knowledge of SPSS software to assist in analysis of ethnographic data

WORK & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Admissions Office, Kutztown University Kutztown, PA
University Tour Guide Fall 20xx-Present
• Promote University during campus tours and field guest questions
• Communicate effectively with large and diverse student groups
Friends, Inc. Community Services Kutztown, PA
Food Pantry Volunteer Fall 20xx-Present
• Sort donations and distribute food to clients in need

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Kutztown University Student Philosophy Association Fall 20xx-Present
Career Success Certificate, Kutztown University Career Development Center Spring 20xx
Career Exploration Certificate, Kutztown University Career Development Center Fall 20xx

Learn more about your field and develop the necessary skills for employment by gaining hands-on experience through clinical practice.

Utilize summer breaks to acquire valuable experience via volunteer or employment opportunities related to your major.

Develop professionally through campus involvement and professional memberships. This illustrates responsibility, leadership abilities and time management skills.