

Why study philosophy?

Can I earn a living with philosophy?

Philosophy is simply worth studying for its own sake. But philosophy is not just about philosophy and it can be applied in many non-academic careers and personal pursuits.

- Philosophy provides great academic preparation for advance study in graduate school;
- Philosophy is of great value, especially when coupled with a secondary major, for a variety of non-academic careers (with very good lifetime earning potential!)

Philosophy focuses on questions that are fundamental for all people: How should we live? What gives our lives meaning and purpose? What should we believe, and how can we be confident that our beliefs are true? These are the questions that have occupied philosophers for centuries, and that occupy us as we live our lives. Philosophy seeks to give rigorous, well thought out answers to these questions, or, at least, to help us frame the right approaches in the search for truth.

Philosophy has this basic value regardless of the career we pursue. Although college and university teaching have been the primary career options for philosophers, **they are not the only options!**

→ On the next few pages, you will find some data that shows the value of studying philosophy for graduate school. You will also find some information about the earning potential of philosophy majors and a list of some careers in which philosophy skills can be used – especially when coupled with a secondary major or further graduate work.

The Marquette Philosophy Department offers an undergraduate major with four tracks:

History of Philosophy

Ethics and Values

Social, Political and Legal Philosophy

Philosophy of Science and Mind

We also have a brand new ADP degree option (a five year BA + MA program)

For more information, please contact

Dr. Anthony Peressini (anthony.peressini@marquette.edu); Dr. Ericka Tucker (ericka.tucker@marquette.edu);

or Dr. Theresa Tobin (theresa.tobin@marquette.edu) for the ADP program.

Or just chat with one of your philosophy instructors about the many advantages to studying and majoring in philosophy.

philosophy

What can it do for you?

Valuable Skills

Leave your preconceptions at the door! Philosophy delivers highly marketable, highly transferable skills. If your ideal career requires thinking, talking, or writing, we'll help you prepare. (Like these [famous philosophy majors](#) did.)

Do Philosophy Majors Make Any Money?

Your parents might have worried when you chose philosophy as a major. But graduates in philosophy earned 103.5% more about 10 years post-commencement. ([Story](#). [Data](#).)

A Harvard Medical School Professor Makes the Case for Philosophy

"What a continuously giving gift philosophy has been... If you can extract, and abstract, underlying assumptions or superordinate principles, or reason through to the implications of arguments, you can identify and address issues in a myriad of fields."

Smart Students Study What They Love

Information is easy to acquire, and much will soon be obsolete. What is valuable is not the *content* of a major, but rather the ability to *think with and through* that information.

Be Employable: Study Philosophy

The discipline teaches you how to think clearly, a gift that can be applied to any line of work.

The Power of the Liberal Arts Major

If you're getting a liberal arts degree, you're actually in more demand than those who are getting finance and accounting degrees.

Big Questions

Ever wondered if [God exists](#)? If you have [free will](#)? If life has a [meaning](#)? Whether abortion/affirmative action/capitalism is [right or wrong](#)? What it means [to be a person](#)? If you should fear [death](#)?

So have we! Believe it or not, we've made progress and we have answers—lots of them—backed up with reasons. Come join humanity's conversation before life gets in the way and you die wondering.

Consider this question: "[What Do I Desire?](#)"

Bertrand Russell: "[The Value of Philosophy](#)" ([pdf](#))
[Pepperdine Philosophy Alumni](#) do great things.

High Scores

Philosophy Rules the GRE

Thinking about graduate school? Add up the three sections: Philosophy majors have the highest score on the GRE. ([Breakdown by section](#).)

Philosophy Rocks the GMAT

How about business school? Philosophy majors outperform majors in economics, statistics, finance, accounting, etc.

Philosophy Owns the LSAT

Need that J.D.? Philosophy is a better bet than political science, pre-law, and anything starting with "business."

Philosophy Gets You into Med School

Philosophers enjoy the best chance of admission to medical school of any major.

Compiled by [Tomás Bogardus](#)

<https://sites.google.com/site/whystudyphilosophy/>

The Rise in Stock of Philosophy Graduates

Figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency show philosophy graduates are in growing demand from employers.

The Management Myth

Most of management theory is inane, writes the founder of a consulting firm. If you want to succeed in business, don't get an M.B.A. Study philosophy instead.

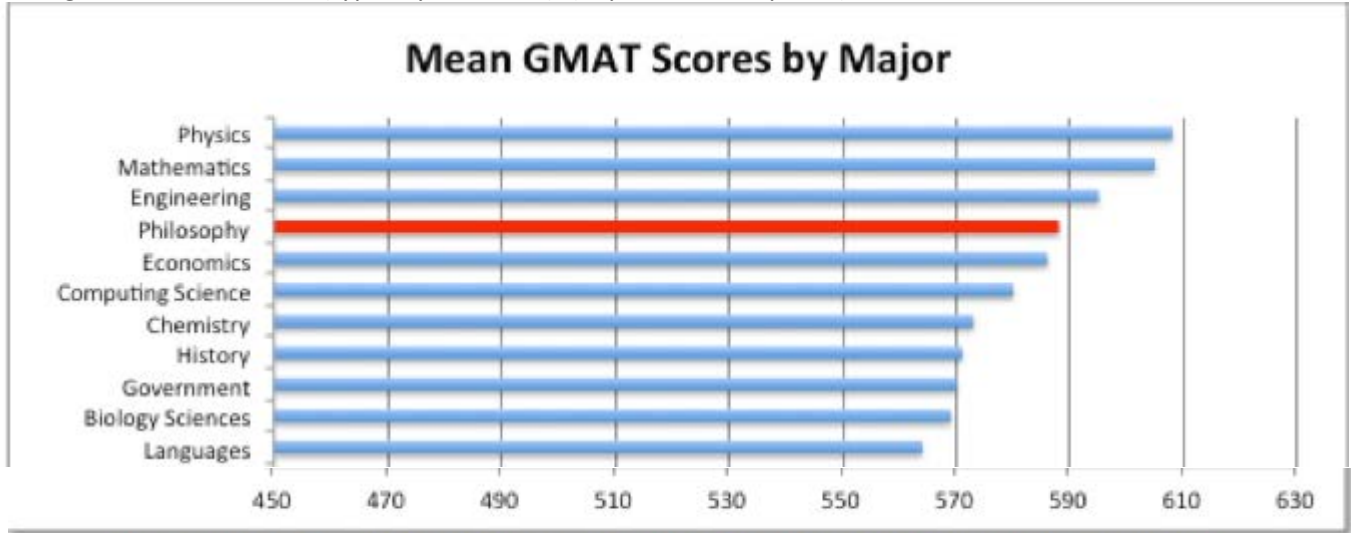
Why Some M.B.A.s are Reading Philosophy

Courses like "Why Capitalism?" push students to ponder business in a broader context, and address a common complaint of employers, who say recent graduates are trained to solve single problems but miss the big picture.

Study of Philosophy Makes Gains Despite Economy

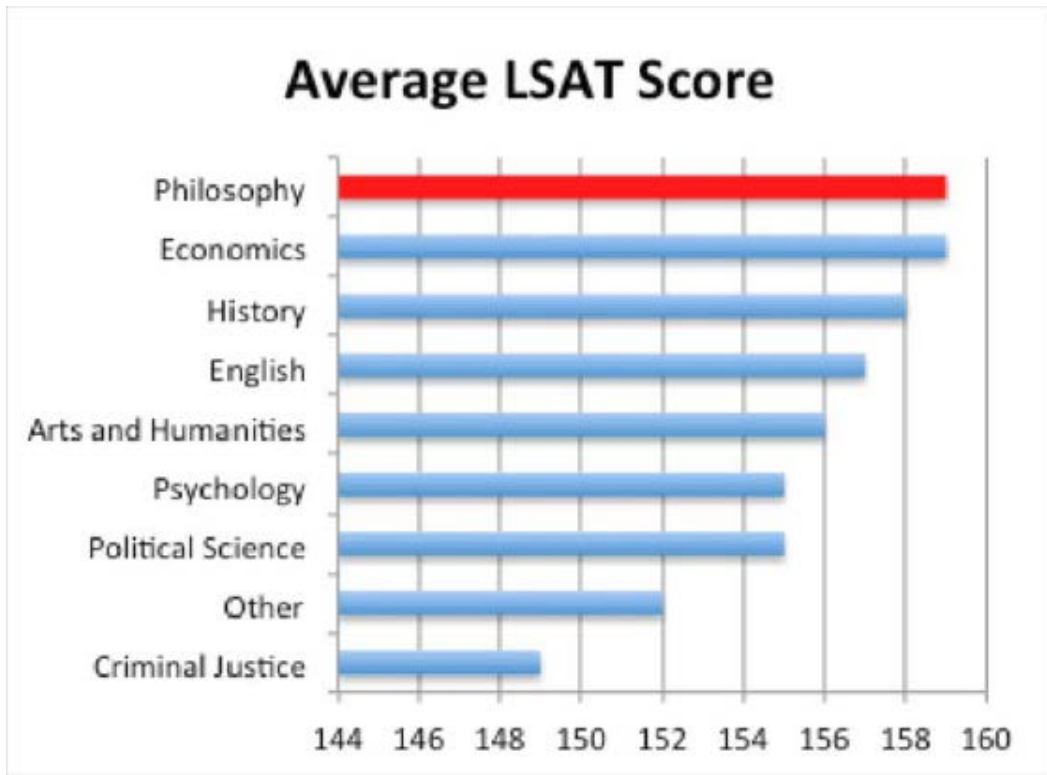
In an era in which chronic unemployment seems to demand hard skills, some students are turning to an ancient study that they say prepares them not for a job, but for the *multiple* jobs they expect to hold during their lifetimes.

Mean GMAT scores by major. The GMAT is the standardized test used to assess applicants to graduate school in management and business (typically for MBAs). (Top eleven disciplines)



Data ©2014, Profile of GMAT Candidates, 2007-2012. Chart ©2015, philosophy@uno.edu.

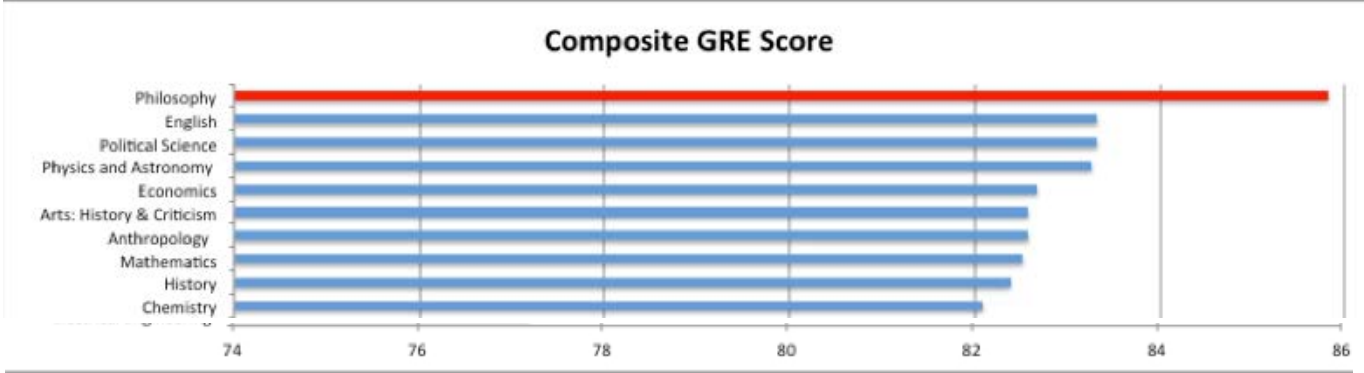
Mean LSAT scores by major. The LSAT is the entrance exam for law school.



Data ©2014, Law School Admission Council, Inc., based on >1000 test takers

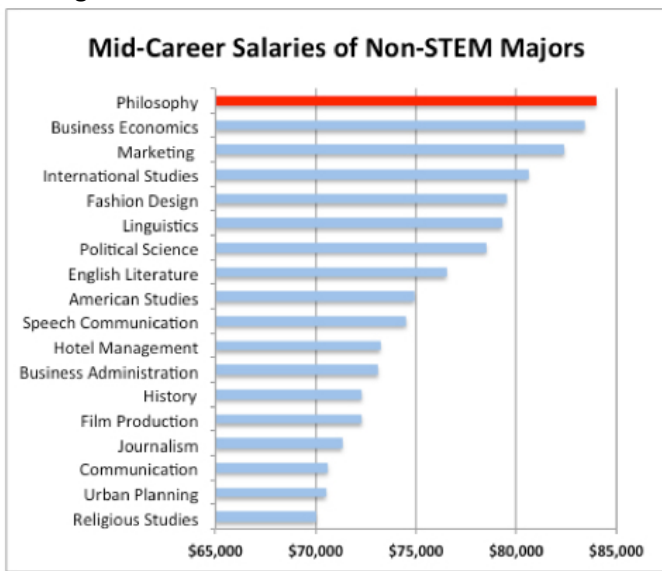
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Mean GRE Composite (combined verbal reasoning + quantitative reasoning + analytical writing scores, by percentile) scores by major. (Top 10 disciplines)



Data ©2014, Educational Testing Service, based on college graduates who tested between August 1, 2011 - April 30, 2014.
 Chart ©2015, philosophy@uno.edu.

Earning Potential:



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

Some non-academic careers for philosophers (often with double major or additional graduate work)

There are a variety of different careers in business, law, government work, media consulting, marketing, technical writing, policy analysis, NGOs, medicine, publishing, etc. See:

<http://www.apaonline.org/?page=nonacademic>

Maturity Curves: How Experience Affects Pay

Find out how much graduates with different degree and major combinations earn with 5, 10 and 20 years of experience under their belt. Narrow in on a particular subject grouping to see which fields of study benefit most from advanced degrees.

