

PHILOSOPHY (BA):

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/5409.php>

“Philosophy involves a critical examination of our most fundamental beliefs about truth and reality, right and wrong. In this major, students study the traditional answers to the basic questions in western philosophy and also the important critiques of that dominant tradition. They will explore ethical and justice issues, which are crucial to contemporary legal, political, and public policy debates. Philosophy majors learn sophisticated forms of reasoning and textual analysis, and deepen their understanding of basic human problems and possibilities.”

Skills, Abilities and Objectives for Philosophy Majors:

- Understand disputes and disagreements and the argument on all sides
- Apply logic to problems
- Plan strategies and investigate alternatives
- Develop strong communication skills
- Develop critical evaluation and application
- Define problems and investigate alternatives
- Develop and test hypotheses
- Influence and persuading others
- Link broad concepts to specific issues
- Develop logical reasoning and interpretation skills
- Present and scrutinize alternative viewpoints
- Research and evaluate information
- Synthesize ideas and themes

Transferring Skills to Careers:

The skills above prepare Philosophy majors for a range of professional degrees and career options. The list below ***does not include all possible professional paths available to students who major in Philosophy*** but gives a sample of careers that graduates may choose to pursue. The logistical and communication skills developed by *Philosophy* majors are applicable to positions such as:

- Philosopher
- Human Services Coordinator
- Counselor
- Public Relations Manager
- Information Broker
- Attorney
- Grant Writer
- Psychologist
- Politician
- Accountant
- Lobbyist
- Speech Writer
- Professor/Teacher
- Librarian
- Foreign Services Adjuster
- Programmer Analyst
- Policy Analyst
- Biomedical Ethics Researcher
- Community Developer
- Teacher
- Intelligence Officer
- Health Care Provider
- Journalist/Blogger

Strategies for Professional Development:

- Explore minors such as: Africana Studies, Art and Music, Anthropology, Corrections, Human Services, Criminology, Human Rights, Psychology, Political Science, Police Science and Sociology.
- Look for internship/volunteer experiences with various social and governmental agencies.
- Develop and emphasize your transferable skills such as:
 - Communication
 - Research
 - Leadership/ Teamwork
 - Critical Thinking
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest.
- Get involved in student organizations such as the **Debate Team, Law Society** and the **Model United Nations**.
- Create a LinkedIn account to connect with individuals and organizations in fields of interest.
- Consider pursuing a master’s degree in a related career field.

Professional Associations/Organizations:

A professional association is an organization formed to promote and support the development, growth and work efforts of individuals in a particular career field. Membership benefits include networking, continuing education, mentoring programs, meetings/conferences and exclusive access to information regarding career opportunities.

There is often a fee for joining professional organizations; however, most associations offer discounts to students, including graduate school students, recent graduates, and young professionals. All or a portion of associations' fees are tax deductible. To learn more about professional associations, see the *National Trade and Professional Associations Directory*, the *American Society of Association Executives* or the *Encyclopedia of Associations: Volume I- National Organizations of the U.S.* The latter publication is available in the Reference section of John Jay College's Lloyd Sealy Library.

- **American Philosophical Association**
<http://www.apaonline.org>
- **American Philosophical Society**
<http://www.amphilsoc.org>

Additional Resources:

- **Career Overview**
<http://www.careeroverview.com/>
- **Riley Guide to Jobs in Philosophy**
<http://www.rileyguide.com/arts.html#phil>
- **Occupational Outlook Handbook**
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

For more information on this major please visit:

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<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/4032.php>