

# Why Study PHILOSOPHY?

"It's the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."  
Aristotle [Metaphysics]

A Philosophy Major leads to careers in ...

**LAW!**

**MEDICINE!**

**BUSINESS!**

**ACADEMIA!**

and many other possibilities!

## Famous Philosophy Majors

Martin Luther King

Civil Rights Leader



Angela Davis

Activist



Stephen Breyer

Supreme Court Justice



Stewart Butterfield

Cofounder of Flickr



Carly Fiorina

Former CEO of HP



Mary Higgins Clark

novelist



Lana Del Rey

Singer/songwriter



Stephen Colbert

Comedian/tv host



Juan Williams

Journalist



George Soros

Investor/Philanthropist



Susan Sontag

Writer/Macarther Fellow



Emmanuel Macron

French President



# IF NOT FOR:

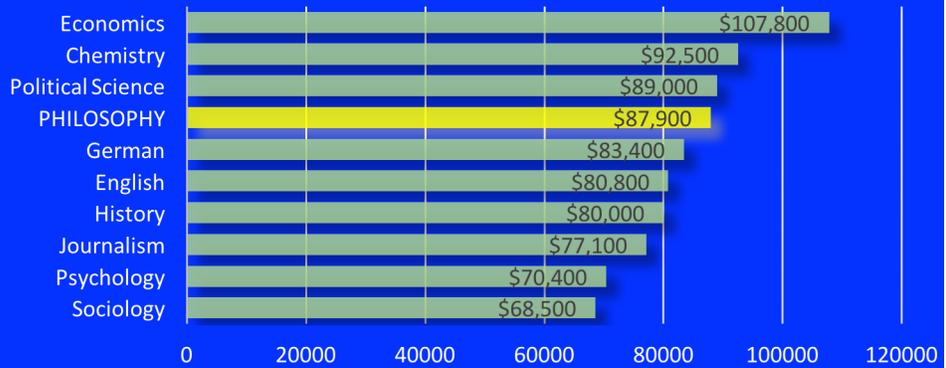
- all those analytical & critical skills
- the ability to question & think for yourself
- an understanding of the history & nature of human thought
- full-proof knowledge of the meaning of life



# FOR THE MONEY?

## MEDIAN MID-CAREER SALARY

(10+ YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE)



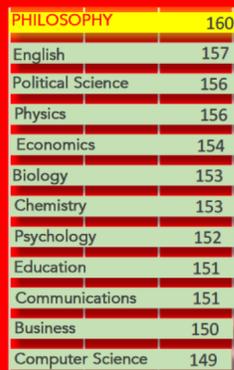
PAYSCALE.COM, COLLEGE SALARY REPORT, 2019 UPDATE

“The discipline teaches you how to think clearly, a gift that can be applied to just about any line of work”  
Shannon Tyee, *Salon* 2013

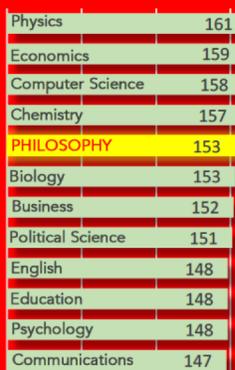
# GRAD SCHOOL?

## GRE Scores by undergraduate major

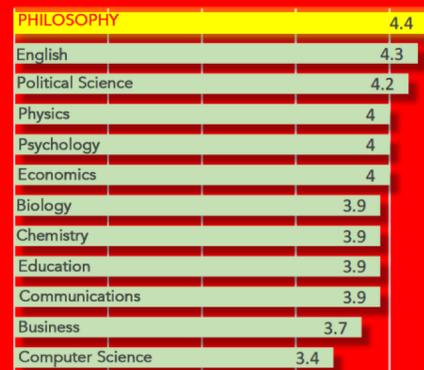
### VERBAL



### QUANTITATIVE



### ANALYTICAL WRITING

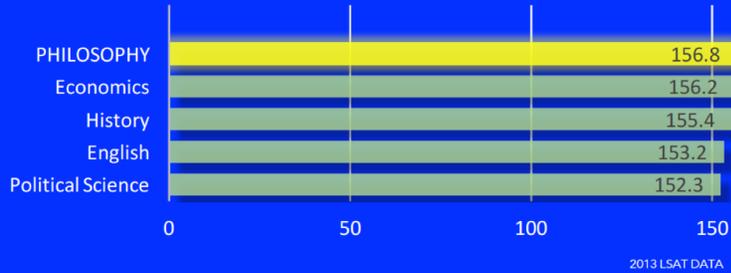


Data from Educational Testing Service: [http://ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre\\_guide\\_table4.pdf](http://ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide_table4.pdf)

# FOR LAW SCHOOL?

## LSAT TOP FIVE SCORING MAJORS

(AMONG MAJORS GRANTED TO MORE THAN 1000 STUDENTS)



I use my philosophy degree every day. I'm a litigator. I make arguments for my clients in court. ... But perhaps more important than learning to construct an argument is learning to take one apart ... That's much harder to learn, and for me, that's what a philosophy degree is all about.

SMU alum Chris Schwegmann, '97 (Partner, Lynn Tilotson Pinker Cox)

Majoring in philosophy at SMU was a great choice for me for many reasons.... I don't think the type of thinking and problem-solving I learned from being a Philosophy major, though intangible, could be gained from any other discipline.

SMU alum Whitney Ehlin, '08 (Associate Lawyer, Bickel & Brewer)

I frequently tell people the most practical learning I had in preparation for a legal career both as a lawyer and judge were the philosophy courses I took at SMU... I think it is cliché to say majors such as philosophy have no practical application in the "real world" but I could not disagree more.

SMU alum Hon. Charles Montemayor, '88 (Judge, Bexar County)

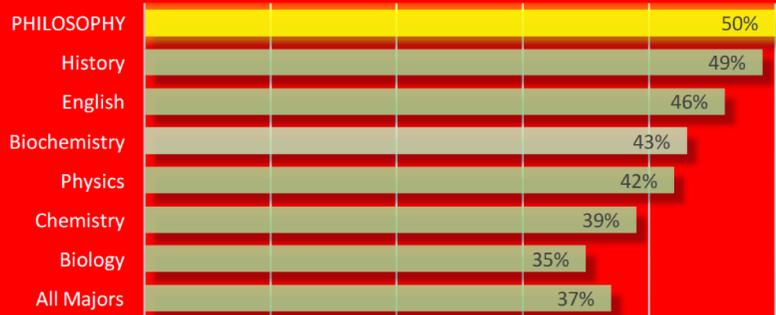
[In my career] I [have] utilize(d) the ways of thinking, writing and arguing that I learned as a Philosophy major. Ironically, all of the prosecutors in my Court were Philosophy majors at different institutions! I have no doubt that our degrees prepared us to be effective advocates.

SMU alum Rebekah J. Bailey, '05 (Assist. D.A., Dallas County)

# MED SCHOOL?

## MED SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE RATES

(BY UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR)



<http://www.amsa.org/AMSA/Homepage/MemberCenter/Premeds/PremedRx.aspx>

I have always found my studies in philosophy extremely important throughout my career in medical research... my philosophy studies taught me how to think critically and particularly how to analyze a philosophical paradox, which I find commonly in medical research as well as in public health policy.

SMU alum Robert Haley, '67 (Chief Epidemiology Division, UT Southwestern)

I can absolutely tell you that my philosophy studies at SMU have been invaluable to my personal and professional development and continue as I move forward.

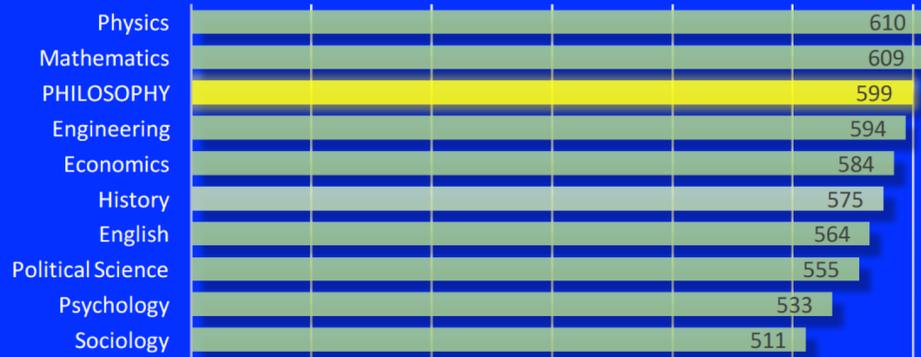
SMU alum Todd Stewart, '92 (Physician)

I think that studying Philosophy uniquely prepared me for this career both in practice and in research because it cultivated an ability to dissect ideas and models of thinking.

SMU alum Patrick McCaffrey, '09 (Physician, Pathology Resident, Massachusetts General)

# BUSINESS?

## Graduate Management Admissions Test (by intended undergraduate major, 2010-11)



<http://GMAC.com/market-intelligence-and-research/research-library/gmat-test-take-data.aspx>

I've always felt my philosophy degree from SMU was one of the building blocks for how I think, and how I guide my business.

SMU alum Ryan Rubin, '06 (NFL Contract Advisor)

I double majored. ... Throughout my career, it has always been my PR background that would get me the job interview, but my critical thinking skills from philosophy that would get me the job.

SMU alum Richard Franco, '92 (Head of Member Engagement, Liquidnet)

I continue to find my philosophy studies helpful almost every day in my job.

SMU alum Curtis Cox, '07 (Energy Trader)

I work in real estate and mortgage financing and I value my Philosophy degree over my Business degree for a variety of reasons. The best reason is that it taught me how to approach and analyze problems more broadly than using just numbers.

SMU alum David Blewett, '89 (Principal, Tower Resources)

For information about majoring & minoring in Philosophy:

[http:](http://)

For information about Philosophy courses:

[http:](http://)

Or contact our friendly & informative advisors:

- Philosophy Major & Minor: Prof. M. Lockard  
Prof. B. Thompson
- Ethics Minor: Prof. L. Robinson
- Cognitive Science Minor: Prof. J. Fisher