

Why Study **PHILOSOPHY?**

"It is 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...



and many other possibilities.

Influential Philosophy Majors



Aung San Suu Kyi
Nobel Prize Winner



Stewart Butterfield
Founder, Flickr



Juan Williams
Journalist & Analyst



Pope Francis



David Souter
Supreme Court Justice



Carly Fiorina
CEO Hewlett Packard



Reid Hoffman
Founder, LinkedIn



George Soros
Billionaire Investor &
Philanthropist



Susan Sarandon
Academy Award Winning
Actress

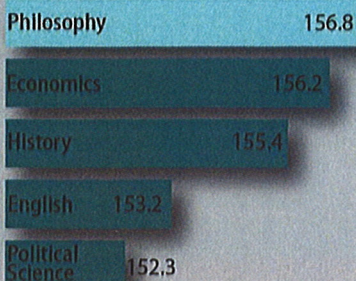


Angela Davis
Civil Rights Activist, Author,
and Academic

Law School?

LSAT Top Five Scoring Majors

amongst majors with at least 1000 takers



Derek Muller, April 2014, <http://excessofdemocracy.com/blog/2014/4/the-best-prospective-law-students-read-homer>, based on 2013 LSAT data

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... Learning to deconstruct an argument. That's much harder to learn, and for me, that's what a philosophy degree is all about.

Chris Schwegmann, '97, Partner,
Lynn Tillotson Pinker Cox

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.

Hon. Charles Montemayor, 88, Judge,
Bexar County Children's Court

Majoring in philosophy at SMU was a great choice for me for many reasons (I also majored in Political Science)... 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.

Whitney Ehlin, '08, Associate Lawyer Bickel & Brewer

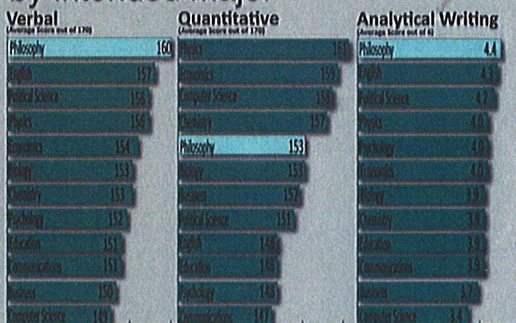
[Throughout my career] I [have] utilize(d) the ways of thinking, writing and arguing that I learned as a Philosophy major. Ironically, all of the prosecutors in my Court were Philosophy majors at different institutions! I have no doubt that our degrees prepared us to be effective advocates.

Rebekah J. Bailey, '05, Assistant District Attorney, Dallas County

Grad School?

GRE Scores

by intended major

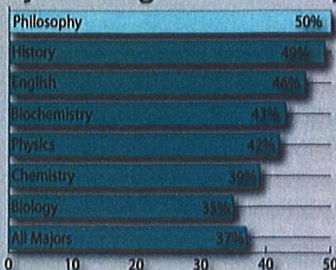


Educational Testing Service; data available at http://ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide_table4.pdf

Med School?



Med School Acceptance Rates by undergraduate major



Paul Jung M.D. 2000, "Major Anxiety",
<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.

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.

Todd Stewart, '92, Physician

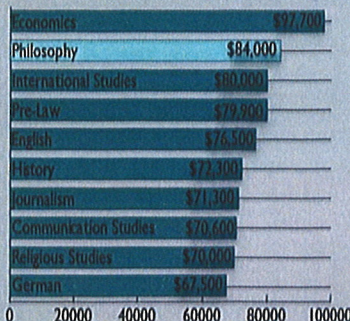
I think that studying Philosophy uniquely prepared me for this career both in practice and in research because it cultivated an ability to dissect ideas and models of thinking.

Peter McCaffrey '09, Physician, Pathology Resident Mass. General

For the Money?



Median Mid-Career Salary In the humanities by undergraduate major



Payscale.com, College Salary Report 2014-2015

Be Employable: Study Philosophy

"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.

Graduate Management Admissions Test, 2010-11

by intended undergraduate major

Physics	610
Mathematics	609
Philosophy	599
Engineering	594
Economics	584
History	575
English	564
Political Science	555
Psychology	533
Sociology	511

Graduate Management Admission Council, "Profile of GMAT Candidates",
<http://GMAC.com/market-intelligence-and-research/research-library/gmat-test-take-data.aspx>

Business?

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.

Ryan Rubin, '06, NFL Contract Advisor

I double majored, and my second degree was in communications, with an emphasis on public relations. 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.

Richard Franco, '92, Head of Member Engagement, Liquidnet.

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

Curtis Cox, '07, MBA (Rice), 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.

David Blewett, '89, Principal, Tower Resources

For more information on courses and majoring in philosophy at Southern Methodist University visit: www.smu.edu/philosophy

I believe my philosophy degree has helped me to examine and evaluate arguments, thinking critically about issues and ideas... I was prepared well for the kind of abstract thinking that is so often necessary in areas of theology and in the Church.

Rev. Mark Reisinger, '01, Minister, United Methodist Church

... I actually do think about things more deeply than I think many people do, which helps me win at poker, but also engage in interesting conversation, make better (and deeper) friendships, and help me help others at my job at the church...

Mark Wachsmeyer, '05, Director of Music for Bethel, St. David's Episcopal Church

All quotes are from alumni of the Southern Methodist University Philosophy Department.

Learning how to reason well?

PRICELESS