

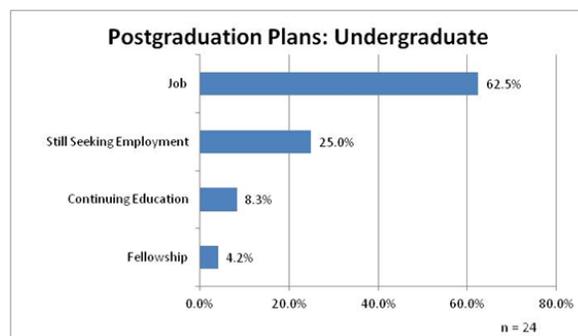
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
Career Education

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN **PHILOSOPHY**?

Where do Philosophy majors go?

According to the 2015 Graduating Student Survey (with a 58.5% response rate for the Philosophy department):

- 91.7% of graduates were employed or going to grad school or a fellowship
 - 62.5% were employed
 - 25.0% had secure plans to attend grad school
 - 4.2% had a fellowship



Here are some examples of organizations that have hired Columbia Philosophy majors in recent years:



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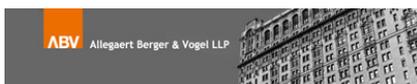


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What jobs do Philosophy majors do?

A degree in philosophy provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum, including:

- **Education:** Teaching, Research, Administration, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Library Sciences
- **Ethics:** Teaching, Research, Medical/Clinical, Bioethics, Environmental, Law-Related
- **Law:** Prosecution, Defense, Contractual, Corporate, Nonprofit or Public Interest, Government, Mediation
- **Business:** Sales, Management, Finance, Human Resources, Consulting, Training and Development
- **Religiously Affiliated Areas:** Clergy and Other Religious Leaders, Mission Work, Local Ministries

- **Social/Community Services:** Administration/Management, Fundraising/Development, Public Relations, Policy Analysis, Research, Grant Writing, Direct Service
- **Government/Politics:** Public Policy, Research, Regional Planning, City Management, Intelligence, Foreign Service, Elected or Appointed Leadership, Campaign Management, Staff Administration, Special Interest Advocacy
- **Communications:** Writing, Editing, Technical Writing, Journalism

Use CCE's [Industry Exploration](#) webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.

What do employers want?

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. *Ability to work in a team structure*
2. *Ability to make decisions and solve problems*
3. *Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization*
4. *Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work*
5. *Ability to obtain and process information*
6. *Ability to analyze quantitative data*
7. *Technical knowledge related to the job*
8. *Proficiency with computer software programs*
9. *Ability to create and/or edit written reports*
10. *Ability to sell or influence others*

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren't the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

What value do Philosophy majors bring?

According to the Department of Philosophy at Columbia, Philosophy majors develop the ability to:

- Think critically and objectively
- Write clearly and effectively
- Present a case convincingly
- Organize material with attention to detail and a pleasing style
- Analyze policies for fairness and accuracy
- Develop creative solutions to unique situations
- PLUS a keen awareness of political issues and all sides of disagreements

What if I'm an international student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job directly related to the student's major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE's International Students webpage at careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students.