**PHILOSOPHY**

What can I do with this degree?

“Philosophy is the examination of ideas and the evaluation of first principles. In addition to studying its own traditional areas such as ethics, logic, metaphysics and epistemology, philosophy investigates other disciplines by critically reviewing their foundations and methods. Philosophy helps us free ourselves from dogmatic or unreflective habits of mind. It instills habits of intellectual integrity, impartiality, and rationality. Philosophy enlarges our conception of what is possible and enriches our intellectual imagination.” (Winona State University Philosophy Department, n.d.)

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (2011) reports that hiring for the Class of 2011 (all majors) nationally is up 5.9% with an average salary offer of $50,462. Hiring for the Midwest region is reported by The Collegiate Employment Research Institute (2010) as also increasing by 10% for Bachelor graduates with an average salary of $36,866, which is down from the past two years. The Midwest Colleges and Employers Association (2010) reports regional (12 state Midwest region) hiring is increasing by 9% with an average starting salary of $35,453 for all Bachelor degree recipients. The Midwest Colleges and Employers Association (2010) also reports all Liberal Arts majors regionally are expected to earn an average salary of $34,242 while Michigan State University reports Liberal Arts majors are expected to earn an average starting salary of $35,445 (The Collegiate Employment Research Institute, 2010). Regionally, all humanities majors have seen an increase in hiring of 16% (not including English and Psychology) with all social science majors seeing an increase in hiring of 7% (The Collegiate Employment Research Institute, 2010). Salary offers average $26,333 for other humanities majors and average $33,674 for other social science majors (National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2011).

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<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>PREPARATION</th>
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| SOCIAL/COMMUNITY SERVICES      | Nonprofit organizations, Social service organizations, Public interest research groups, Museums, Mental health agencies | ❖ Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills.  
❖ Gain related work experience.  
❖ Volunteer in relevant organizations.  
❖ Obtain master’s degree in social work or counseling as well as applicable state licensure for therapy positions.  
❖ Become familiar with grant writing techniques. |
| RELIGION/MINISTRY              | Local churches or synagogues, District, regional, national, and world denominational headquarters, Religiously affiliated schools, colleges, and universities, Local, national, and international mission fields, Religious organizations | ❖ Obtain appropriate seminary training for clergy positions.  
❖ Become certified through a denomination for specialized staff positions.  
❖ Gain related experience through volunteering with local churches or religious organizations.  
❖ Develop applicable foreign language skills for international mission work.  
❖ Seek leadership positions in campus religious organizations.  
❖ Complete an internship or summer position with a religious camp or missionary organization. |
| EDUCATION                      | Colleges and universities, Adult education programs, Vocational-technical educational programs, Professional or graduate schools including medical | ❖ Obtain a doctorate degree for opportunities in teaching and/or research.  
❖ Develop one or more concentrations, such as mathematics, medical or business ethics, science, or religion.  
❖ Gain related experience through internships, volunteering, or part-time employment.  
❖ Earn a master’s degree in a specialized area (e.g., Library and Information Sciences, College Student Personnel, or Counseling).  
❖ Seek campus leadership positions such as peer mentor or resident assistant. |
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<table>
<thead>
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| **GOVERNMENT** | • Federal, state, and local government  
• Commission on Civil Rights  
• Consumer Product Safety Commission  
• Department of Energy  
• Federal Communications Commission  
• Foreign Service  
• Federal Municipal Archives  
• National and State Endowments for the Humanities  
• Legislative, executive, or judicial officials  
• Political action committees  
• Special interest groups  
• Political parties  
• Campaigns (national, state, or local) | ❖ Become familiar with federal, state, and local job application processes.  
❖ Supplement curriculum with courses in political science, public administration, or business.  
❖ Complete an internship in government or related area.  
❖ Become involved in student government.  
❖ Participate in cultural groups and organizations.  
❖ Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs.  
❖ Develop skills in computers, statistics, and data analysis.  
❖ Acquire foreign language competency and travel experience for international positions.  
❖ Earn a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement.  
❖ Volunteer with the staff of a government official.  
❖ Participate in local or national campaigns. |
| **ETHICS** | • Laboratories  
• Medical and professional schools  
• Colleges and universities  
• Consulting services  
• Research organizations  
• Health science funding agencies  
• Environmental agencies | ❖ Obtain Ph.D. for most positions.  
❖ Participate in related professional organizations.  
❖ Join debate groups.  
❖ Develop excellent research skills.  
❖ Hone verbal and written communication skills. |
| **LAW** | • Law firms  
• Corporations  
• Federal, state, and local government  
• Private practice  
• Special interest groups  
• Universities | ❖ Obtain law degree.  
❖ Develop excellent research and writing skills.  
❖ Participate in debate or mock trial.  
❖ Maintain a high grade point average.  
❖ Gain experience through part-time employment or internships in legal settings. |
| **WRITING** | • Publishing companies  
• Magazine and newspaper companies  
• Professional and trade associations  
• Advertising agencies and departments  
• Electronic media organizations | ❖ Serve on college newspaper staff.  
❖ Develop excellent writing and desktop publishing skills.  
❖ Take courses in journalism, advertising, public relations, or English.  
❖ Gain related experience.  
❖ Become a student member of a related professional group. |
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<thead>
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| BUSINESS | • Management  
• Sales  
• Human Resources  
• Market Research  
• Finance  
• Insurance | • Business firms  
• Insurance companies  
• Banks  
• Retail stores  
• Marketing research departments or organizations  
• Real estate companies | ✷ Minor in business.  
✷ Gain related experience through internships or part-time jobs.  
✷ Obtain leadership role(s) in campus organization(s).  
✷ Develop computer skills in word processing, database management, and spreadsheet programs. |

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<th>STRATEGIES</th>
<th>LINKS</th>
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| Philosophy students develop many transferable skills that can be utilized in a variety of careers and jobs, demonstrating the flexibility and capacity for growth that employers find valuable. These skills include analytical, organizational, research, as well as oral and written communication skills.  
Other related skills that are attractive to employers are idea generation, problem formulation and problem solving, diverse data integration, adaptation to change, the ability to elicit hidden assumptions, persuasion, and summarization of complicated material.  
An undergraduate degree qualifies one for entry-level positions in business, nonprofit organizations, and government.  
Graduate and/or professional studies usually lead to careers in law, medicine, ministry, finance, psychology, counseling, diplomacy, ethics, and related areas.  
Ph.D. is required for college/university teaching and research.  
Concentrations with other areas can include mathematics, religion, science, history, women’s studies, Eastern philosophy, and medical or business ethics.  
Develop aptitudes for analytical thinking, logic, and statistics in order to apply philosophy to a broad range of professions such as law, government, finance, management, consulting, and related areas.  
Join related student or professional organizations.  
Seek related summer or part-time work experience or internships in area(s) of interest.  
Take computer courses to increase employment opportunities. | Philosophy Now  
Teacher – Postsecondary from the Occupational Outlook Handbook |

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2003)
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The following is a representative sample of types of job positions relating to philosophy (not all possible options are listed):

College/University Faculty
College and University faculty are growing annually at a moderate rate of 1.5% (Economic Research Institute, 2010). There are 1,387,000 positions nationwide and average an annual salary of $64,500 (United States Department of Labor, 2009). In Minnesota there are 22,430 positions that average an annual salary of $68,000. Starting salaries average $48,500 annually nationwide and average $49,500 in Minnesota. Generally a Doctoral Degree is required with instances of Master’s Degree graduates being hired (DISCOVER, n.d.).

Lawyer
Lawyers are growing at an annually moderate rate of 1.3% (Economic Research Institute, 2010). Nationally there are 569,900 lawyers averaging an annual salary of $111,000 (United States Department of Labor, 2009). In Minnesota there are 9,820 Lawyers averaging an annual salary of $117,000. Starting salaries average $73,500 nationally and average $77,500 in Minnesota. A Law degree is required (DISCOVER, n.d.).

Minister/Priest/Rabbi
These occupations are growing annually at a moderate rate of 1.3% (Economic Research Institute, 2010). Nationally there are 42,700 positions employed including 630 in Minnesota (United States Department of Labor, 2009). Annual salary averages $49,000 nationally and averages $51,500 in Minnesota. Starting annual salaries average $32,000 nationally and average $34,000 in Minnesota. Most positions require a Bachelor’s degree and study in a seminary (DISCOVER, n.d.).

For additional information please follow the provided links below:

- Career One Stop: http://www.careeronestop.org/
- O*Net Online: http://www.onetonline.org/