

# WHAT CAN I DO WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PHILOSOPHY ?

## *Facts about a philosophy degree:*

- Philosophy is made up of many different sub-fields:
  - a) logic
  - b) ethics
  - c) metaphysics
  - d) epistemology
  - e) aesthetics
  - f) social and political philosophy
  - g) philosophy of mind, language, etc.
  - h) history of philosophy
- A philosophy degree is not designed to prepare you for a specific career, but instead, to give you a broad and general understanding of the world, our place in the world, and our values. The skills acquired through the degree are usually what serve as credentials for getting a job
- Any career which demands training in critical and abstract thinking could be enhanced by a background in philosophy
- A degree in philosophy can serve as a foundation for further studies in a research-based graduate program or a terminal masters program like a MBA or a Masters in Public Administration (MPA)

## SKILLS POSSESSED BY PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES

Many employers are interested in the skills which philosophy majors tend to possess. These include:

- ability to summarize complicated material and solve problems
- understanding of logic, the use of language, and the assessment of evidence
- ability to formulate, present, defend and evaluate arguments
- ability to think critically and express ideas clearly
- understanding of human, historic influences on reality, knowledge, politics and morals
- ability to analyze cause and effect & the relationships between factors
- proficiency in theoretical and textual analysis

## SAMPLE JOB TITLES FOR PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES:

(some may require additional education and / or training beyond the Bachelor's degree)

Public policy analyst  
Community/social program officer  
Legislative assistant  
Religious research assistant  
Volunteer coordinator  
Political campaign coordinator  
Employment equity officer  
Archivist assistant  
Government/private sector liaison officer  
Patient's representative/advocate  
Planning consultant  
Advertising executive/copy writer  
Foreign Service Officer  
Community/regional development officer  
Communications officer  
Student affairs professional  
Employment coordinator  
Fundraiser  
Bio-Ethics Research Assistant

International development worker  
Editor, Publisher  
Insurance underwriter  
Data analyst  
Market research analyst  
Non-profit director

**A philosophy graduate may use his/her degree as the foundation for other occupations including\*:**

Journalist  
Lobbyist  
Lawyer/Mediator  
Public Relations Specialist  
Professor  
Librarian  
Labour Relations Officer  
Minister of Religion  
Teacher  
Disaster Response Coordinator

**\*Check for specific program pre-requisites**

## AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT: (this list is not exhaustive)

Religious organizations	Publishing companies
Non profit organizations	Political organizations
Newspapers / magazines	Archives
Radio / television industry	Libraries
Public interest research institutions	Museums
Public relations firms	Hospitals
Social service agencies	Employment agencies
Environmental advocacy groups	Mission field organizations
Ethics review boards	Special issues groups
Mental health organizations	International development agencies
Government departments (Federal, Provincial, Municipal)	Business firms
Volunteer services	Market research agencies

### Want More Information? Check these websites!

Check our website at: [www.umanitoba.ca/student/careerservices](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/careerservices)

- Click on “**Job Postings and Volunteer Opportunities**” and register as a **Student** to view current job postings

**National Occupational Classification**—[www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca](http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca)

**University of Manitoba—Faculty of Arts—Department of Philosophy**  
[www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/philosophy/](http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/philosophy/)

**University of Delaware Career Services Centre**  
[www.udel.edu/CSC/phil.html](http://www.udel.edu/CSC/phil.html)

**University of Toronto Mississauga Career Centre - Careers By Major: Philosophy**  
[www.erin.utoronto.ca/careers/cbm/philosophy.html](http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/careers/cbm/philosophy.html)

**University of Brandon—Careers in Philosophy**  
[www.brandonu.ca/philosophy/careers-in-philosophy/](http://www.brandonu.ca/philosophy/careers-in-philosophy/)

**The Philosophy Major’s Career Handbook**  
[www.brandonu.ca/philosophy/careers-in-philosophy/](http://www.brandonu.ca/philosophy/careers-in-philosophy/)

*For more information on occupational, educational and employment options, please drop by Career Services, 474 University Centre, 474-9456.*