

MAJOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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jjay.cuny.edu/departments-philosophy

MAJOR ADVISOR

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See all major requirements at: jjay.cuny.edu/philosophy-major-resources

WHO MAJORS IN PHILOSOPHY?

People like Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and David Souter, President Bill Clinton, Congressman John Lewis, Angela Davis, Susan Sontag, Cornell West, Kumail Nanjiani, the Reverend Martin Luther King, and Pope John Paul II. People who want to be ready to answer arguments and think deeply about right and wrong. People who know businesses seek out philosophy majors for their creative problem solving and critical thinking skills. People who plan on a career in law, because they know philosophy will teach them how to read difficult texts and present cogent, compelling arguments. And people who want to succeed: according to the Wall Street Journal, philosophy majors advance more rapidly than other majors in whatever career they pursue.

PHILOSOPHERS ARE PREPARED FOR

Law School: With an average LSAT score of 157.5, philosophers out-perform all majors besides economics, and philosophers have the highest rate of acceptance to law school of all majors.

Grad School: Philosophers have the highest combined GRE scores of all majors.

Business School: Philosophers have the highest combined GMAT scores of all majors, highest mid-career salary of all humanities majors, and the greatest rate of salary increase of any major.

WHAT DO PHILOSOPHERS LEARN?

Philosophy majors learn how to analyze, criticize and produce arguments. They acquire sharp reading skills through analysis of texts that make precise distinctions, giving philosophy majors the highest verbal reasoning scores on the GRE. Most importantly, they ask questions about truth, values and being, questions like: what makes an action right? how do we distinguish knowledge from opinion? and what does it mean to be a person?

“Learning how to raise questions, even about that which one assumes is unquestionable—this is what I’ve learned from my philosophical studies, from critical theory.”

— Angela Davis

“The questions of the good, the true, and the beautiful—these were my questions. I realized I had to do philosophy for the rest of my life. That was the beginning of my passion.”

— Charles Johnson

WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Analyzing and understanding complex texts
- Presenting difficult ideas—others’ and your own—clearly
- Listening to others’ ideas and responding constructively
- Developing and researching significant questions
- Evaluating and constructing strong arguments
- Critically assessing practical options and acting on the best one
- Writing effective analytical essays

WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- English
- Humanities and Justice
- Anthropology
- History
- Gender Studies
- Political Science
- Sociology

For more information about minors, go to:

jjay.cuny.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/minors

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

The Criminal Justice Ethics Institute offers fellowships for students doing original research in the area of criminal justice ethics.

THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, BUT SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER ARE:

- Law
- Public Service
- Crisis Intervention Counselor
- Diplomat
- Business/Finance
- Policy Analyst
- Public Relations
- Computer Programming
- Information Sciences and Humanities
- Journalism
- Organizational Consulting
- Medicine
- Teaching

Philosophy is great preparation for law school, philosophy graduate school and other humanities graduate programs!