

FOUR GOOD REASONS TO MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY

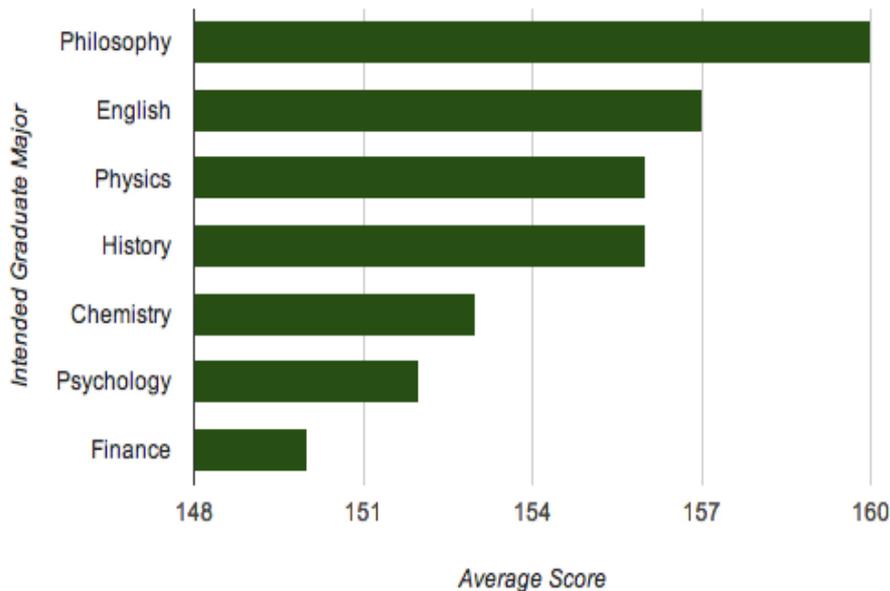
#1 Philosophy is interesting. Where else do you get to ask questions like, 'Is my mind simply identical to my brain?' or 'Are there any universal moral truths?' or 'Where does my duty to obey the law stop?'

#2 Philosophy is actually very practical. It equips graduates with what employers say they want. In a *Chronicle of Higher Education* survey of 50,000 US employers

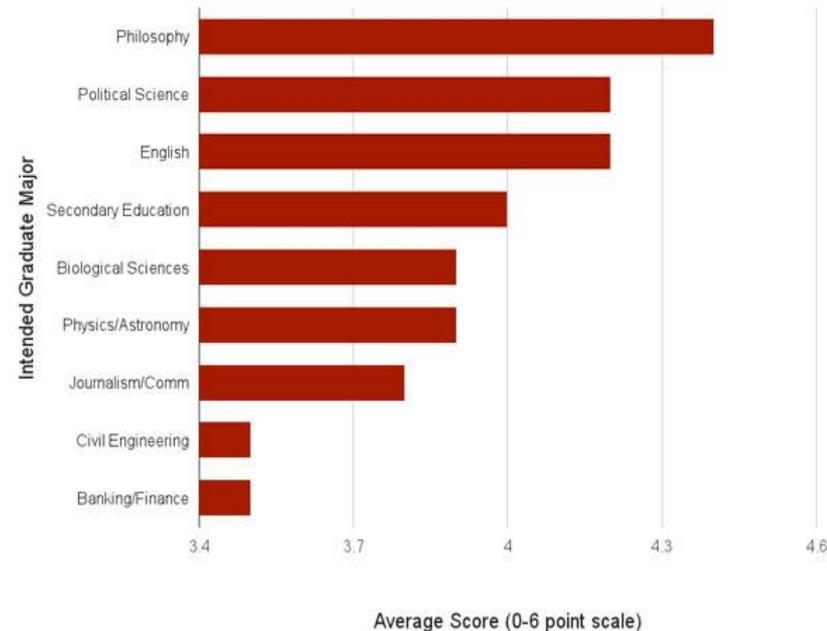
- 93% agreed that capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than undergraduate major.
- 75% say they want more emphasis on five key areas, including critical thinking, complex problem-solving, and written and oral communication.

Post-bachelors testing in the US on the Graduate Record Exam shows that Philosophy graduates excel in exactly these fundamental skills

Verbal Reasoning



Analytical Writing



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#3 In the long run Philosophy graduates make money (if that's your thing). Data from the USA shows that Philosophy graduates start off in jobs that are not as high-paying as some (though the median is higher than for majors such as Communications, Sociology or Psychology). However, because they have invested in their basic intellectual infrastructure, they experience the biggest jump from median starting salary to median mid-career salary. (source: Wall Street Journal)

Major	mid-career median	% increase from start	Major	mid-career median	% increase from start
Chem. Engineering	\$107,000	69.3	Communications	\$70,000	83.7
Economics	\$98,600	96.8	Nursing	\$67,000	23.6
Mathematics	\$92,400	103.5	Journalism	\$66,700	87.4
Finance	\$88,300	84.3	Biology	\$64,800	67.0
Philosophy	\$81,200	103.5	English	\$64,700	70.3
Marketing	\$79,600	95.1	Psychology	\$60,400	68.2
Accounting	\$77,100	67.6	Sociology	\$58,200	58.9
Bus. Management	\$72,100	67.7	Tourism	\$57,500	52.1

#4 Expect the unexpected. A major in Philosophy can lead just about anywhere. All of the following people majored in Philosophy.

Peter Theil, co-founder/CEO of PayPal (Stanford)	George Soros, hedge fund manager (LSE)
Aung San Suu Kyi, politician and winner of Nobel Peace Prize (Oxford)	Ethan Coen, filmmaker (Princeton)
Ricky Gervais, comedian (University College London)	Susan Sarandon, actress (Catholic Uni of America)
Christopher Hitchens, journalist (Oxford)	Larry Sanger, co-founder of Wikipedia (Ohio State)
Tony Abbott, politician (MA in Philosophy, Politics & Economics at Oxford)	Gareth Evans, politician (PPE, Oxford)
Barry Humphries, comedian (Melbourne – dropped out before finishing though)	Angela Brennan, Australian painter (Melbourne)



Painting by Angela Brennan