



# Philosophy

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

---

## *Introduction*

Philosophy is the oldest form of systematic, scholarly inquiry. The term has acquired several meanings: (1) the study of the truths or principles underlying all knowledge, being, and reality; (2) a particular system of philosophical doctrine; (3) the critical evaluation of such fundamental doctrines; (4) the study of the principles of a particular branch of knowledge; (5) a system of principles for guidance in practical affairs; and (6) a philosophical spirit or attitude.

Philosophical study involves a continuous attempt to analyze, interpret, and logically explain what humans believe, value, and do. The several different branches of philosophy correspond to the different problems being considered. One of the most basic is epistemology, the theory of knowledge. It deals with what can be known, how it can be known, and how certain the individual can be about the subject. Metaphysics is the study of what features of experience are real and which are apparent.

## *What are some desirable personal qualities?*

- Formulate/defend positions make critical observations/evaluations
- Speak effectively and listen objectively
- Understand ideas/values
- Proficiency in analytical reasoning

## *What are some of the job tasks?*

- Ask questions
- Construct valid arguments
- Develop theoretical constructs
- Logical and speculative reasoning
- Provide clarification on the reasoning process
- Provide a means of analyzing basic concepts

## *What are some potential occupations?*

Anthropologist  
Biographer  
Book/Magazine Publisher  
Consumer Behavior Researcher  
Curator  
Director in Higher Education  
Historian  
Human Resource Manager  
Lawyer  
Market Research Specialist  
Motivational Speech Writer  
Pastoral Counselor  
Religious Leader  
Researcher  
Theatre and Film Critic  
Training and Development Specialist  
Writer  
Clergy

## *Additional information*

Experience acquired through cooperative education or internships can prove valuable in obtaining professional positions.

There are many subfields of philosophy, and it is the nature of philosophy as critical inquiry to develop new subfields when new directions in the quest for knowledge, or in any other area of human activity, raise new intellectual problems.

It should be apparent that philosophy pursues questions in every dimension of inquiry. Many of these questions are not only intellectually interesting, but also important in non-academic pursuits. Graduate Study in philosophy is not and should not be limited to those whose aim is to teach in the field.

## *Who hires?*

- Archives
- Banks
- Business/Industry
- Churches
- Educational Institutions
- Libraries
- Market Research Firms
- Newspaper/Magazine Publishers
- Nonprofit Foundations
- Religious Organizations

**Path to Ultimate Career Guide**

<http://www.pakbridge.com>