

WHY MAJOR OR DOUBLE-MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY?

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MYTHS ABOUT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

- Here are some unfortunate myths about philosophy:
 - Philosophy majors have few marketable skills
 - Philosophy majors are unprepared for professional careers in anything but teaching philosophy
 - Philosophy is useless in today's modern economy
 - Philosophy majors will earn low salaries unless they go to law school?

THE TRUTH: CAREER POSSIBILITIES

- While no major guarantees you a good-paying job, Philosophy actually gives you a better chance of a high salary than most other majors.

THE TRUTH: CAREER POSSIBILITIES

- Furthermore, philosophy forms a solid background for many diverse career paths, and helps you discover how to best direct your life according to your plans.

THE TRUTH: SALARY

- According to PayScale and the Wall Street Journal, philosophy majors have a mean starting salary of \$39,900 and a median mid-career salary of \$81,200.

In addition, philosophy majors rank in the top-10 in all majors with the *highest salary increase* from start to mid-career.

THE TRUTH: SALARY

- Philosophy major's median mid-career pay is *higher* than accounting, marketing, business management, nutrition, and nursing.
- Philosophy major's median mid-career pay is *comparable* to many STEM graduates (chemistry's mid-career salary is \$79,900; Civil Engineering's mid-career salary is \$90,500)

THE TRUTH: SALARY

- Philosophy majors also have a lower unemployment rate than the national average.

CAREER BENEFITS OF PHILOSOPHY:

- “Many successful companies—especially those in the tech world—don’t see a philosophy degree as impractical at all. Instead, they seek out those candidates with broader, big-picture skills, who can think critically, question assumptions, formulate and defend ideas, develop unique perspectives, devise and evaluate arguments, write effectively, and analyze and simplify complicated problems. And these competences are abundant in people with a philosophy background.”

- Stich and Donaldson, “Philosophy.”

THE TRUTH: PHILOSOPHY AND GRADUATE EXAMS

- According to data from the Law School Admission Council and Educational Testing Service, philosophy majors do remarkably well on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) and Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

THE TRUTH: PHILOSOPHY AND GRADUATE EXAMS

- For example, philosophy majors tie economic majors for the highest scores on the LSAT.

THE TRUTH: LSAT SCORES

Average LSAT Scores by Major

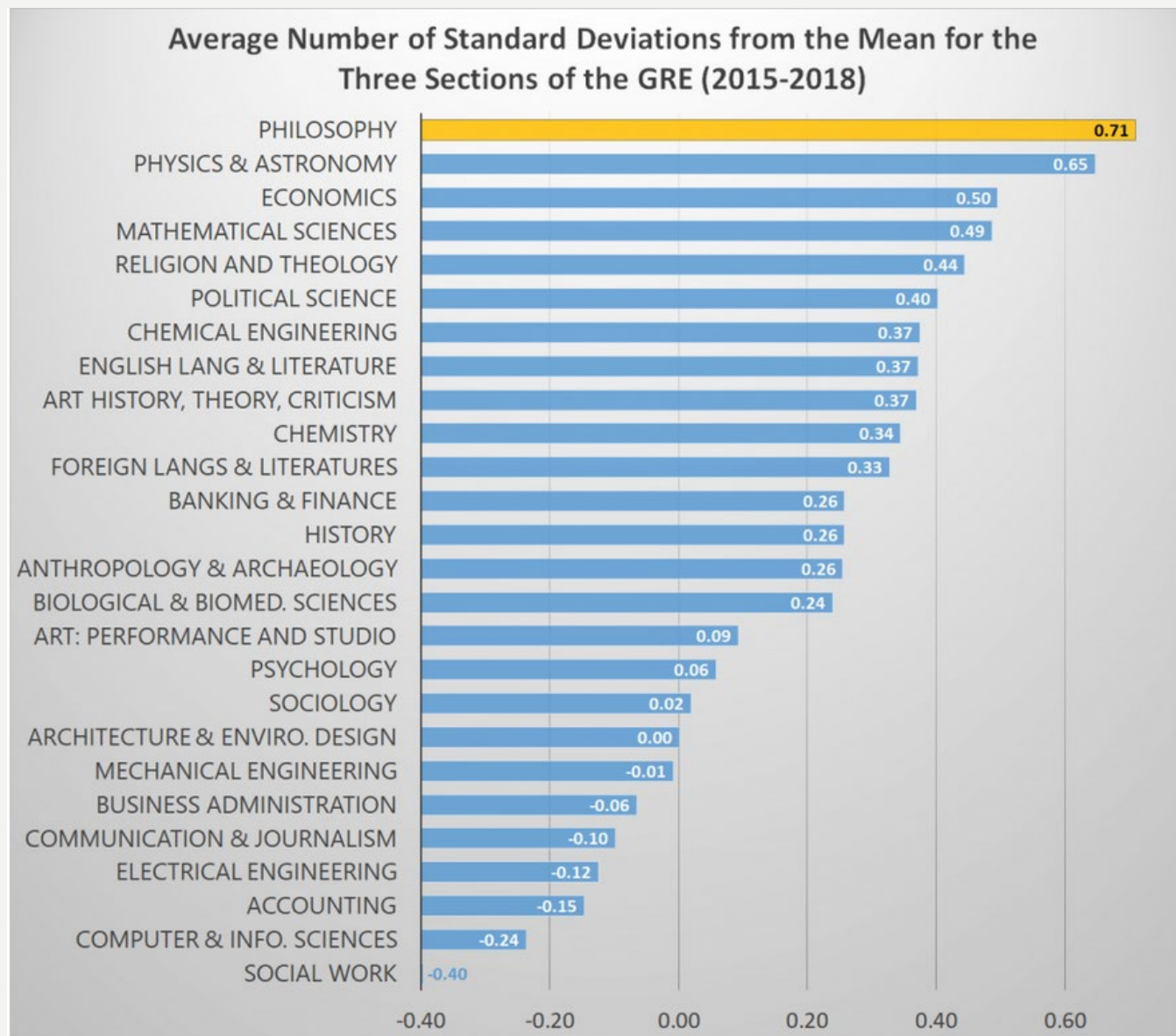
Major	Average Score	Number of Students
Economics	158.9	2,757
Philosophy	157.2	2,238
Engineering	156.2	974
History	156.3	3,138
English	154.8	3,151
Finance	154.9	1,471
Political Science	153.6	11,947
Psychology	152.5	3,736
Communications	150.8	1,183
Criminal Justice	145.9	3,629

Data source: https://www.lsac.org/sites/default/files/media/2017-18_applicants-major_0.pdf

THE TRUTH: PHILOSOPHY AND GRADUATE EXAMS

- Philosophy majors score higher than all other majors on the verbal reasoning and analytic writing sections of the GRE. The overall average scores are higher, comparably, than other majors.

THE TRUTH: GRE SCORES

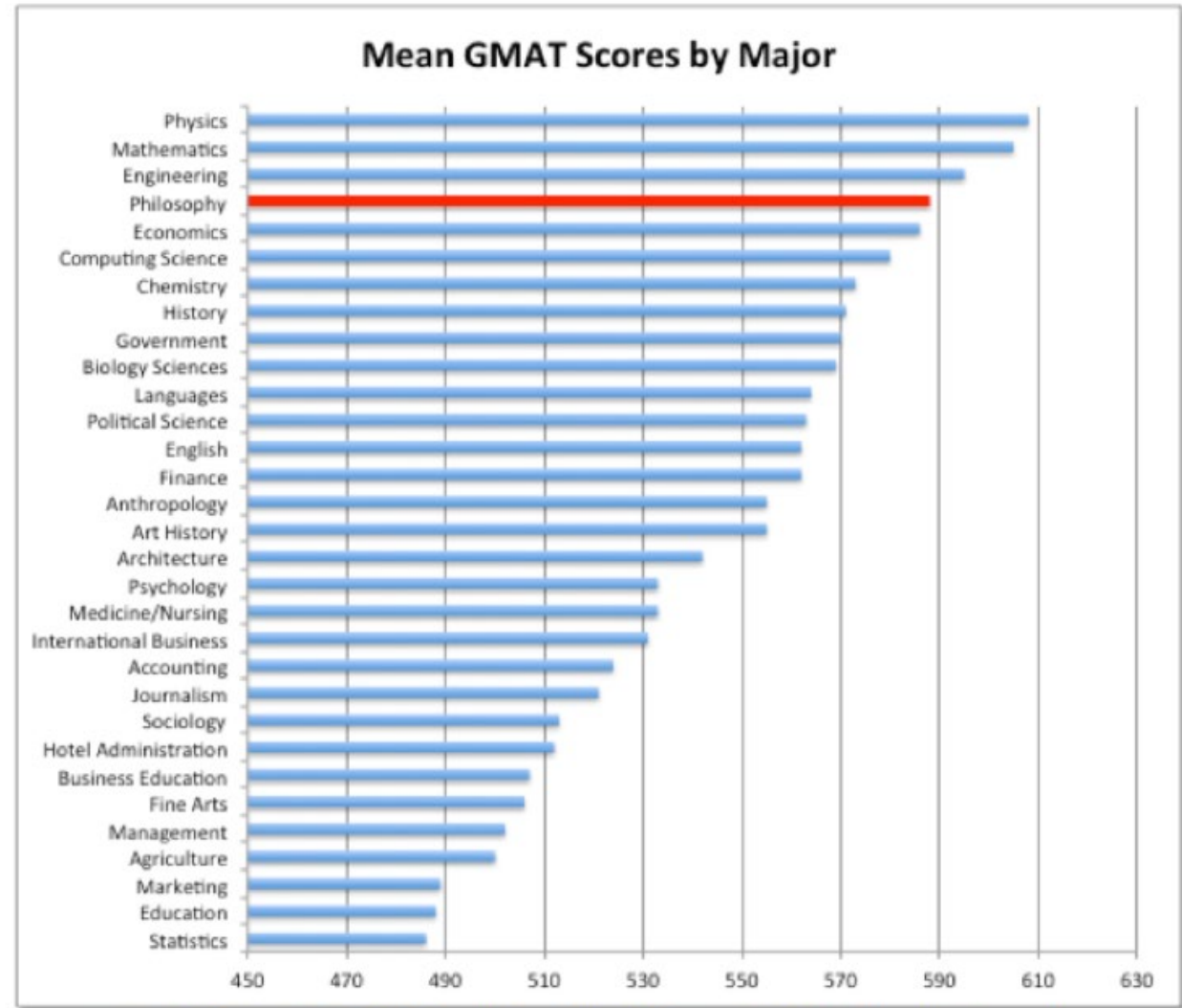


Data based on seniors and non-enrolled college graduates who tested between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018
Available here: https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide_table4.pdf

THE TRUTH: PHILOSOPHY AND GRADUATE EXAMS

- Philosophy majors score higher than most other majors on the GMAT, with the exception of Math, Physics and Engineering.

THE TRUTH: GMAT SCORES



Data ©2014, Profile of GMAT Candidates, 2007-2012. Chart ©2015, philosophy@uno.edu.

THE TRUTH: PHILOSOPHY HELPS YOU BECOME A BETTER CITIZEN

- By studying philosophy, you are able to understand, analyze and respond to key issues in debates about moral, legal and political values, as well as meaning more broadly. This makes you a better informed citizen and can lead to deeper civic engagement.

THE TRUTH: PHILOSOPHY CAN HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER PERSON

- The same skills are applicable in helping you lead a self-directed life, discover an appropriate career, and even improve arguments in contexts like negotiating with your boss about salary, or even arguing with your partner about who should wash the dishes.

THE TRUTH: PHILOSOPHY CAN HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER PERSON

- Philosophy helps you to build foundational skills for life, and can help you find ways to understand and respond to the challenges we all encounter.

PHILOSOPHY AT UNC

We have two major tracks and two minors to help you navigate your interests:

- **Philosophy B.A. – Liberal Arts (general)**
- **Philosophy B.A. – Ethics and Public Policy Emphasis**
- **Philosophy Minor – Liberal Arts**
- **Philosophy Minor – Ethics and Public Policy Emphasis**

DIRECT CONNECTION TO OTHER MAJORS AND FIELDS

Our courses connect directly to other majors and intended career paths.

- Medical Ethics (Nursing)
- Philosophy of Science (Sciences)
- Formal Logic I & II (Mathematics and Law)
- Philosophy of Law (Law)
- Social and Political Philosophy (Law; Politics)

General philosophical background is applicable to nearly every major!

TAILORED TO YOUR INTERESTS AND NEEDS

Our major is designed to help students succeed.

- 30 credit major, with many elective options.
 - If needed, students can finish the major in just a few semesters.
- Range of faculty specializations
 - Religion, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics, Disability, Law
- Responsive to student feedback
 - We take student feedback into account when designing courses, planning events, and teaching courses.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DOUBLE-MAJOR

- It is one of the most flexible majors on campus, allowing you to easily add a second major or minor.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DOUBLE-MAJOR

Current and Recent double-majors include:

- Alec, Business Administration and Philosophy
- Zach, Gender Studies and Philosophy
- Maddy, International Affairs and Philosophy
- Luke, Special Education and Philosophy
- Amelia, Psychology and Philosophy
- Jacob, Computer Science and Philosophy
- Daniela, Sociology and Philosophy
- Annika, Chemistry and Philosophy
- Vanessa, Math and Philosophy
- Kamri, Art and Philosophy
- Nate, Spanish and Philosophy
- Tom, Journalism and Philosophy

A SAMPLE OF CAREER PATHS FOR PHILOSOPHERS

- Business
- Computer Science
- Counseling
- Education
- Environmental Leadership
- Law
- Medicine and Medical Ethics Consulting
- Public Policy Work
- Politics
- Public Service

... really, the options are endless and applications are everywhere!

UPPER LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Our department offers other exciting opportunities for further learning:

- Rocky Mountain Regional Ethics Bowl
- Internship Credit
 - Recent topics include Philosophy in K-12 Education; Sci-Fi and Philosophy; Volunteering with CASA Child Advocacy Services, Greeley Dream Team, and other organizations
- Directed Study
- Senior Seminar (topic changes annually; recent topics include Philosophy of Disability, and Modal Metaphysics (aka, Possible Worlds— what has to be and what could be))

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL ETHICS BOWL

Coach Peterson leads one to two teams of UNC students in a regional ethics competition each November.

- Teams from Colorado and surrounding states meet to debate about compelling contemporary ethical issues.
- Students hone critical thinking skills and ethical understanding as well as teamwork and collaborative skills.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL ETHICS BOWL

We rejoined the region in 2017, and have been gaining momentum each year.

Here are some highlights:

- In 2018, we won the Spirit Award for Team Work and Professionalism.
- In 2020, we qualified for and competed at the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl in Atlanta, GA
- UNC Bears are currently ranked 20th in the Nation!

ETHICS BOWL – REGIONALS AND NATIONALS

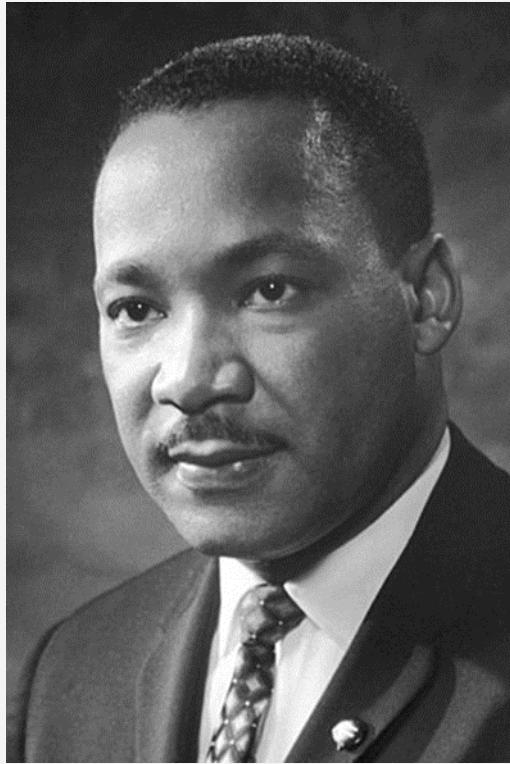


ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL ETHICS BOWL



WHO MAJORS IN PHILOSOPHY?

Knowing what you now know, it may not surprise you that many important and interesting people have majored in Philosophy.



IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

Martin Luther
King, Jr.

Civil Rights
Leader



IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

John Lewis, Civil
Rights activist,
US House of
Representatives



IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

Carly Fiorina,
business-person
and political
figure

(Chief Executive
of Hewlett
Packard)



IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS:

Angela Davis,
Activist



IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS:

Stewart
Butterfield,
cofounder of
Flickr and Slack



**IMPORTANT
PHILOSOPHY
MAJORS:**

Sheila Bair, 19th
Chair of the
FDIC



IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS:

Larry Sanger,
co-founder of
Wikipedia;
Internet
project
developer



IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS:

Damon Horowitz,
entrepreneur and
in-house
philosopher at
Google

(watch his tedTalk
on Philosophy in
Prison)



IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHY MAJORS:

George Soros,
investor,
philanthropist
and business
magnate

MANY ARTISTS AND CREATORS STUDIED PHILOSOPHY, TOO :

Wes Anderson,
filmmaker and
screenwriter



ARTISTS AND CREATORS WHO STUDIED PHILOSOPHY

Mary Higgins Clark,
novelist



ARTISTS AND CREATORS WHO STUDIED PHILOSOPHY

Rashida Jones, actor



ARTISTS AND CREATORS WHO STUDIED PHILOSOPHY

Matt Groening, creator
of The Simpsons and
Futurama



ARTISTS AND CREATORS WHO STUDIED PHILOSOPHY

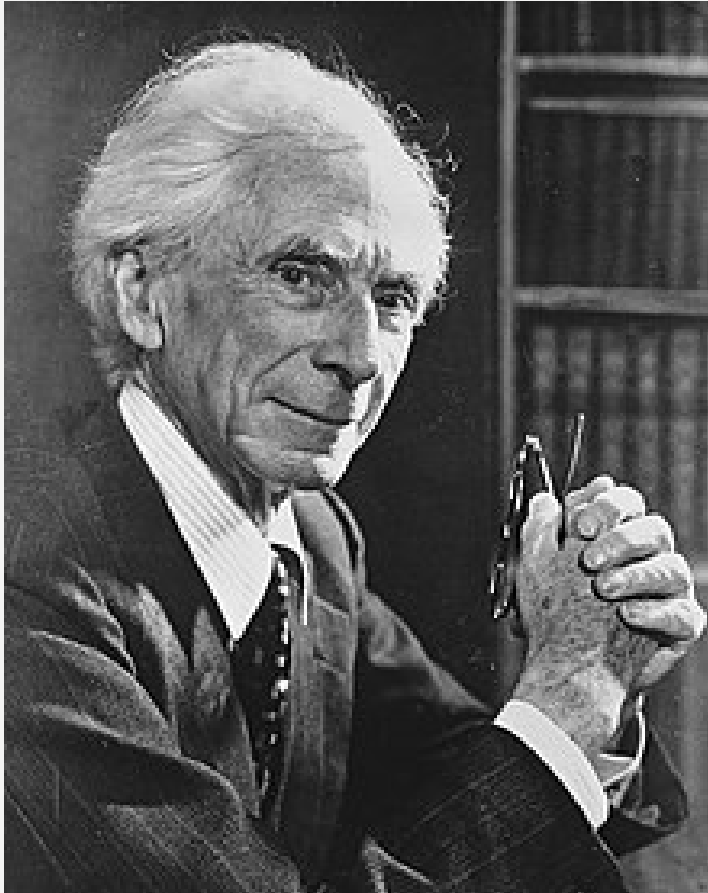
Lana Del Rey, singer,
songwriter



PHILOSOPHY'S INTRINSIC BENEFITS

- Perhaps the biggest benefit of philosophy, and the main reason it has had lasting appeal throughout recorded history, is that philosophy can help us consider and ask questions about meaning, value, and existence.
- Philosophy helps us understand what's true, and real, and valuable.

PHILOSOPHY'S INTRINSIC BENEFITS



“Philosophy, if it cannot *answer* so many questions as we could wish, has at least the power of *asking* questions which increase the interest of the world, and show the strangeness and wonder lying just below the surface even in the commonest things of daily life.”

— Bertrand Russell, [The Problems of Philosophy](#)

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

UNC's Philosophy Department is here for you--
Please contact me with any questions!

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Outreach Coordinator & Ethics Bowl Coach
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Thank you for your time!

SOURCES AND RESOURCES

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