Why Study Philosophy?

Let’s take a look at our alumni survey...

During the summer of 2022, the Department of Philosophy conducted this survey to gain greater knowledge about the vocational, educational, and professional activities of our majors after graduation. The survey was administered by the Office of Institutional Research & all participants and their responses remained anonymous. The results of this survey reflect the views of 133 philosophy alumni who responded to the survey.

*For more information about the Department, or to request a copy of the survey results, write to philosophy@newpaltz.edu*
Students graduate from the philosophy program with a **strong set of intellectual skills**, including writing, analysis, and argumentation, that are **useful in any career path**.

- **87%** of surveyed philosophy alumni went into a job or graduate school immediately after graduation.
- **87%** of surveyed philosophy alumni have used the skills they learned to navigate personal and professional relationships.
- **86%** of surveyed philosophy alumni are glad that they majored in philosophy.
- **79%** of surveyed philosophy alumni have found philosophy helpful in finding a meaningful career.
What did you do immediately after graduation?

Some went on to graduate school:

- Fordham Law
- Columbia Law
- Baruch College
- Emory University
- DePaul University
- New York University
- New York Law School
- Cardozo School of Law

To pursue degrees like:

- Master of Library Science (MLS)
- Master of Social Work (MSW)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Master of Fine Arts (MFA)
- Master of Arts (MA)
- Juris Doctor (JD)

Going on to work at places such as:

- Citibank
- Microsoft
- Skillshare
- NBC Universal
- Mercedes-Benz
- Warner Brothers
- Brown University
- Legal Aid Society
- The Bowery Mission

An undergraduate major in philosophy is excellent preparation for careers in diverse areas, including business, government, journalism, social work, non-profit vocations, law, and for graduate work in many fields.

While others went straight to work at places like:

- Mediacom
- Bank of New York
- CEC Entertainment
- Balenciaga America
- Washington Mutual
- Ulster Savings Bank
- New American Library
- Amnesty International
- Services for the UnderServed
- Long Island Children’s Museum
- English Conversation School (Japan)
How has philosophy been helpful (or not helpful) in everyday life?

**PROBLEM SOLVING**

“Studying philosophy helped to prepare me for a career as a problem solver. It gave me the tools I needed to be able to break down complex problems, the ability to look at them through a variety of lenses, and a framework by which I could deliver the best solution.”

**NEW PERSPECTIVES**

“It was the best decision I have ever made. It is still my love and passion. My philosophy degree has assisted me in attaining every job position I have had since I graduated. Excellent networking opportunities.”

**NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**

“I wish everyone would study philosophy in school. It really taught me how to think and gave me a foundational lens for approaching life.”

**CRITICAL THINKING**

“Studying philosophy has helped me to become a critical thinker, reader, and writer – skills which I use on a daily basis.”

**VALUABLE LIFE SKILLS**

“Studying philosophy provides you with the tools to navigate professional business interactions as well as social personal interactions.”

**CAREER OPTIONS**

“Many joke that the study of philosophy does not yield a ‘good job’ after college, but I disagree, as would many of the engineers and developers I work with who also hold degrees in philosophy.”

**LIFE VALUES**

“In my personal life, it has helped me determine what my values are and to live, to the best of my ability, in line with these values. Great for keeping the big picture in mind!”

Pictured philosophers: Iris Murdoch, Ludwig Wittgenstein