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## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... PHILOSOPHY

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### OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

Philosophy is the study of the most basic moral, legal, aesthetic, religious, and metaphysical ideas by which we understand ourselves and our universe. It is a reasoned pursuit of fundamental truths, a quest for understanding, and a study of principles of conduct. It seeks to establish standards of evidence, to provide rational methods of resolving conflicts, and to create techniques for evaluating ideas and arguments. UNM's Philosophy program offers a pre-law concentration, as well as interdepartmental majors with Economics and English.

### EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, and qualifies one for entry-level positions in business, nonprofit organizations, and government. Depending upon the student's career interests, graduate/professional study usually leads to careers in law, medicine, ministry, finance, education, psychology, counseling, diplomacy, or ethics.

### EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

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**Social/Community Services:** Research – Fundraising – Counseling – Social Work – Volunteer coordination – Grant writing – Administration – Nonprofit and social service organizations – Public interest research groups – Museums – Mental health agencies

**Suggested Strategy:** Gain related experience in areas of interest. Volunteer with a social service agency. Obtain a graduate degree in social work or counseling, as well as applicable state licensure for therapy positions.

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**Religion/Ministry:** Clergy – Administration – Missions – Local churches/synagogues – Denominational headquarters – Religiously-affiliated schools and colleges/universities – Religious organizations

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain seminary training for clergy positions. Gain related experience through volunteering with local churches or religious organizations. Develop foreign language skills for international mission work. Seek leadership positions in campus religious organizations. Complete an internship or summer position with a religious camp or missionary organization.

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**Education:** Teaching – Research – Administration – Student Affairs – College/universities – Adult education programs

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain a doctoral degree for university teaching or research. Develop one or more concentrations and take supplemental coursework. Gain related experience in area of interest. Earn a master's degree in a specialized area (e.g., Library Science, College Student Personnel, or Counseling). Seek campus leadership positions, such as residence assistant.

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**Government:** Public policy/administration – Research – Regional planning – City management – Intelligence – Foreign Service – Law enforcement – Legislative, executive, or judicial services – Program administration – Elected/appointed leadership – Campaign management – Staff administration – Special interest advocacy

**Suggested Strategy:** Become familiar with government application process. Supplement curriculum with courses in political science or business. Complete an internship in government or related area. Acquire foreign language skills for international positions. Earn a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement. Volunteer with campaigns.

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**Ethics:** Medical – Environmental – Research – Hospitals – Consulting services – Research orgs – Health science agencies

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain graduate degree for most positions. Participate in related professional organizations. Join debate groups. Develop excellent research, verbal and written communication skills.

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**Law:** Law firms – Corporations – Government – Private practice – Special interest groups - Universities

**Suggested Strategy:** Gain internship or volunteer experience in legal settings. Participate in debate. Obtain law degree. Pursue pre-law concentration of degree, obtain pre-law advising through College of Arts and Sciences, and join pre-law society.

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**Writing:** Editing – Technical writing – Journalism – Advertising – Public relations – Publishing companies – Advertising agencies

**Suggested Strategy:** Complete an internship in appropriate media. Take courses in journalism, advertising, public relations, or English. Become a student member of a related professional group. Serve on college newspaper staff.

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**Business:** Management – Sales – Human Resources – Market Research – Finance – Insurance

**Suggested Strategy:** Minor in business. Gain related experience through internships or part-time jobs. Obtain **leadership** roles.

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**INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**

American Philosophical Association  
The Philosophical Gourmet Report  
Philosophy As a Profession  
American Academy of Religion  
Idealist.org

<http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/publications/texts/briefgd.html>  
<http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/>  
<http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/profession/data.html>  
<http://www.aarweb.org/>  
<http://www.idealist.org/>

**OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>