WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … Philosophy

**OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:**

According to the [UNM Philosophy Program (2013)](http://example.com) website, “Philosophy is a fundamental academic discipline which is related to all areas of human concern. Philosophy courses will be helpful to students in each of the arts and sciences, as well as in professional fields of study. The major and minor programs in philosophy are designed to serve several different functions: 1) the central focus of a liberal arts degree program, 2) a key component in an interdisciplinary program, 3) preparation for graduate work in education, law, medicine, politics, social work, or theology, 4) preparation for graduate work in philosophy.”

Those interested in majoring in Philosophy are “students planning careers in Religious Studies, Foreign Service, Education (elementary, secondary, or college), Public Administration, or Social Work. Those students who are concerned primarily with obtaining a broad liberal arts education at the undergraduate level. Those preparing for business or professional school (e.g. law or medicine). Philosophy majors score high on such tests as the LSAT. The writing and thinking skills developed in Philosophy courses are increasingly valued by businesses.” [UNM Philosophy Program (2013)](http://example.com)

**EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, and is excellent preparation for entering a variety of diverse occupations that require excellent writing skills, competency in research, and strong interpersonal skills. However, depending upon the student’s career interests, some occupations may require a graduate degree (Master’s, Ph.D., J.D.). Consult [O*Net](http://www.onetonline.org) for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:**

The UNM Philosophy Program offers a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and a PhD program, as well as an Undergraduate Minor. You can find further information on the [UNM Philosophy Program](http://example.com) website.

**INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:**

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s [Lobo Career Connection](http://www.lobocareer.com) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](http://www.career.unm.edu) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

**Government**

City or town management, translation/interpretation, regional planning, public policy, intelligence, community affairs, campaigning, legislative assistance, public information, research, lobbying, conflict negotiation, program administration, general services, social services, foreign service, legislative, executive, or judicial services

**Communications/Education**

Public relations representative, technical writer, researcher, columnist/journalist, editor, publicationist, elementary or secondary educator, professor, principal, admissions, financial aid, academic advising, alumni affairs, international education and study abroad, career services, residence life, student activities and Greek life, orientation, leadership, multicultural student programming

**Museums and Galleries**

Administration, curatorial, preservation and conservation, restoration, registrarial, collections management, exhibit design/preparation, archive management, art authentication, education, publications, development, docent coordination, public relations, reproductions and retailing, museums: university, public, private, archives, historical homes, special collections, historical societies, natural history museums, living history museums, art galleries, state and local government, federal government, particularly the National Archives and Records Administration, non-profit organizations, research institutions, corporations

**Research/preservation**

Exhibit preparation coordinator, historical background analyst, librarian, biography creationist, preservationist, museum specialist, curator, conservator, restorer, research association

**Human Services**

Youth counselor, social work specialist, case worker, volunteer services coordinator, community planning specialist, community organization worker, employment counselor, parole/probation officer, development officer, welfare, investigator, clergy, missions, religious organizations
Business/Nonprofit
Market research analyst, personnel officer, sales/marketing representative, investment researcher, underwriter, insurance agent, loan administrator, manpower planner, organizational planner, management trainee, campaign planner, corporation, historian/archivist, consultant/research, consultant/cultural resource management, banker, stockbroker, account coordinator, customer supply analyst, arts council director, fundraising director, grants specialist, tour guide, foundation administrator, policy analyst, hospitals and other healthcare organizations, print and electronic media, retail stores, restaurants, hotels, manufactures

Communication
Journalism, creative writing, freelance writing, copy writing, editing, research and analysis, advertising, newspapers, magazines, broadcast media companies including television and movie industry, trade, professional, or consumer publications, Internet sites, advertising agencies, publishing house, self-employment/freelance

Student Affairs:
Administration, Greek affairs, advising, multicultural affairs, residence life, student activities

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES
• Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
• Consider working in multiple departments throughout campus to gain experience in areas you are interested in through work study or student employment.
• Make strong connections throughout campus organizations by networking and attending campus events and activities.
• Consider earning a second degree, minor, or pursuing additional coursework in a complementary field of study (e.g., business).
• Focus on developing “transferable skills” such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.
• Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Some positions may require an advanced degree.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Research government internship program and think about interning with a government agency to get a foot in the door, as well as building your resume.
• Make sure to research organizations’ values, so it could be congruent with yours. Knowledge about organizations is critical, because it shows to employers that you’ve done your research and committed to work for them.

WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN?
USA Jobs (official job site of the federal government) www.usajobs.gov
Idealist.org (comprehensive site of international nonprofit opportunities) http://www.ideal.org

INFORMATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL WEBSITES
UNM Department of Philosophy http://philosophy.unm.edu/
American Philosophical Association http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/publications/texts/briefgd.html
The Philosophical Gourmet Report http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/
Philosophy As a Profession http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/profession/data.html
American Academy of Religion http://www.aarweb.org/
Idealist.org http://www.ideal.org/

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES

REFERENCES
University of New Mexico, Department of Philosophy (2013). About Us. Retrieved from http://philosophy.unm.edu/