

# PHILOSOPHY

## What is **philosophy**?

Critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and conceptual inquiry characterize the discipline of Philosophy. The philosophy major at High Point University challenges students to think deeply, analyze problems, and envision solutions. Philosophy graduates are empowered for the 21st-century with a proficiency to innovate, communicate, and ethically lead in whatever career they pursue.



## Student clubs & organizations

- Phi Sigma Tau:  
National Philosophy Honor Society
- Philosophy Club

## Unique course offerings

- Biomedical Ethics
- Existentialism
- Logic & Critical Thinking
- Political Philosophy

## What makes **philosophy majors** employable?

Employers list critical thinking and problem-solving as the number one skills that today's graduates must have. Mark Charnock, president of MonsterTRAK, attests that philosophy students fit a profile that employers are seeking more and more.

You have multiple options with philosophy, such as:

- **Technology** – Billionaire Marc Cuban, of Shark Tank, said in 2017, "I'm going to make a prediction, in 10 years, a liberal arts degree in philosophy will be worth more than a traditional programming degree."
- **Law** – Philosophy majors perform better than pre-law majors on the LSAT
- **Business** – Philosophy majors perform better than business majors on the GMAT
- **Medical** – Philosophy majors have the highest medical school acceptance rate of all majors.

Philosophy majors make up the top 10 percent of all salaries!



## Reasons to Major in **Philosophy**

**Quick Major:** The Philosophy major is only 9 classes so its easy to double-major.

**Flexibility:** People change careers 5-7 times in their lives. Philosophy prepares its majors with broad-based skills that can be effectively applied careers in business, communications, finance, medicine, government, law, and more.

**Community:** As a Philosophy major, you'll join a close-knit community. Professors will know who you are, care about how you're doing, and guide you where you want to go.

**Meaningful:** Philosophy explores meaningful questions of ethics, knowledge and humanity.

## Outcomes

Our recent philosophy graduates (2014 - 2019) are excelling in a variety of fields:

- Financial Advising – Edward Jones
- Information Technology – Duke Energy
- Publishing Services Consulting – Dorrance Publishing
- Software Engineering – Duke Energy
- Veterinary Medicine – Chateau Veterinary Hospital
- Attorneys-at-Law

## Successful people who were philosophy majors

- PayPal Co-Founder, Peter Thiel
- Hewlett-Packard CEO (former), Carly Fiorina
- Overstock.com CEO, Patrick Byrne
- FORBES magazine financial columnist, Mark Hulbert
- Soros Foundation Founder, George Soros
- FDIC Chair (former), Sheila Bair
- Time Warner CEO (former), Gerald Levin
- Flickr Co-Founder, Stewart Butterfield
- Supreme Court Justices, both Stephen Breyer and David Souter
- Pope John Paul II
- Secretary of Defense (former), Robert McNamara
- Dateline NBC Co-Anchor (former), Stone Phillips
- Neuroscientist/Author, Sam Harris
- Columbia Records Producer, Rick Rubin
- Secretary of the Treasurer (former), Robert E. Rubin

## Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Philosophy majors surpass business majors in their earning potential by mid-career.

- **Core areas of study:** Ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, critical thinking, aesthetics
- **HPU philosophy professors hold advanced degrees from:** Duke University, Emory University, University of California – Riverside, and Rice University
- **Students often pair this major with minors in:** Aesthetics, critical thinking, epistemology, ethics, logic, political philosophy

## Meet Jessie

**Hometown:** Ashburn, VA

**Major/Minor:** Philosophy Major, Dance Minor

**Clubs/Leadership Positions:** Honors Scholar Program, Philosophy Club, The Dance Company at HPU, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, High Point University Civitans, Anatomy Student Instructor, and Peer Mentor

**Post-graduation:** I will attend the New York Institute of Technology to earn a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy.

**Why I chose HPU:** My sister graduated from HPU in 2016. Each visit to her reinforced the feeling that this place was the perfect fit for me as well. Four years later, I know I made the right decision. The campus is always bustling with exciting things to do but classes are small, which makes learning a personal experience. Most important, High Point professors are truly the best! My Maymester trip to Asia was an unforgettable highlight that helped me understand a culture very different from my own.

**Why I chose the philosophy major:** I did not start out majoring in philosophy, but once I landed in the philosophy department it quickly became my home. The enthusiasm and energy of the teachers made these courses my favorites! They made the subject matter come alive and helped me understand how different philosophical approaches related to my everyday life. Studying critical thinking, logic, reasoning, and ethics helped me prepare for my future career. Occupational therapists need to analyze problems and develop treatment plans for their patients. Being a philosophy major has given me confidence to know there is not only one right answer to a question and has taught me to think outside the box to solve problems.



For more information about HPU's Philosophy Program, contact: