WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?
Philosophy majors find career opportunities in the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, the exact sciences, and in many professions, because they have been trained to examine the basic questions that range across these areas. Philosophy majors from UT have found careers in business, government, medicine, teaching, law/advocacy, science, journalism/media, social services, and academic philosophy.

Employers in many fields value the education and training of philosophy majors to

- think critically
- analyze arguments
- see the big picture
- question assumptions
- speak and write clearly
- understand alternative perspectives

A 2008 study found that by mid-career, philosophy majors earn on average $81,200 a year—more than students majoring in chemistry, marketing, information technology, business management, and many other fields. See payscale.com/2008-best-colleges/degrees.asp for a full list of best undergraduate college degrees by salary.

Of course, your immediate employment prospects and earnings will be determined not only by your major, but by your grades, your work experience (including internships), and your planning.

In the 21st century, mastery of the basic skills of reading, writing, and math is no longer enough. Increasingly, almost any job that pays more than minimum wage today—both blue and white collar—requires employees who know how to solve a range of intellectual and technical problems. In addition, we face an exponential increase of readily available information, new technologies that are constantly changing, and more complex societal challenges. Thus, work, learning, and citizenship in the 21st century demand that we all know how to think—to reason, analyze, weigh evidence, problem-solve. Effective communication, curiosity, and critical thinking skills...are much more than just the traditional desirable outcomes of a liberal arts education. They are essential competencies and habits of mind for life in the 21st century.”

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