Philosophy is the critical study of alternatives. A major in philosophy provides students with a working acquaintance of reflective methods. A minor in philosophy can be correlated with a major field in such a way as to reinforce conception of the issues involved in that field. The major in philosophy will prepare a student for an advanced professional degree such as an MBA or a law degree or graduate work in a wide range of fields. Philosophy has several branches including logic (disciplined reason), metaphysics (theories about reality), epistemology (how and what we know), ethics (moral theory and practice), and aesthetics (what is beauty?). University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire offers both a major and a minor in philosophy.

**Typical interests and values of philosophy majors:**
- Intellectual growth
- Logical thought and self-expression
- Desire for recognition and to influence others
- Tendency to question and seek answers
- Desire to support beliefs with facts and logic
- Thoughtfulness
- Persuasiveness

**Knowledge and skills gained from studying philosophy:**

**Knowledge:**
Students who choose to study philosophy at UW–Eau Claire will receive a well-rounded education preparing them to continue on in many area of graduate study, pursuing careers of all kinds and maintaining an interest in life-long learning.

**Skills:**
- Ability to make critical observations, evaluations, and appropriate decisions
- Ability to summarize complicated materials and solve problems
- Ability to concentrate for long periods of time
- Ability to speak articulately and listen objectively
- Ability to organize, conduct, and clearly explain research
- Proficiency in analytical and synthetic reasoning
- Broad background of general knowledge
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Ability to work diligently and patiently
- Expressing yourself confidently and creatively
- Ability to find meaning in abstract issues
- Creating new ways to solve problems
- Being persuasive in communication
- Being intuitive and innovative

**Related student and professional organizations:**

**Student:**
- College Freethought Society

**Professional:**
- American Philosophical Association
- Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry
- The Society for Women in Philosophy
- American Philosophical Society

**Career fields related to philosophy:**

**Potential Employers:**
Philosophy graduates can use their education in a variety of fields. In many cases, their positions closely relate to their personal career interests, work values, and transferable skills. Employers of philosophy graduates include advertising agencies, schools/universities, nonprofit organizations, museums, libraries, colleges and universities, and federal, state, and local governments.

**Potential Job Titles:**
- Teacher
- Judge
- Librarian
- Research Assistant
- Intelligence Officer
- Lobbying Organizer
- Foreign Services Officer
- Grant Coordinator
- Community Worker
- Journalist
- Lecturer
- Personnel Manager
- Advertising Executive
- Legislative Aide
- Freelance Writer
- Lobbyist

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Jobs You Might Also Consider...
Public Relations Specialist  Editor
Market Research Analyst  Fund-Raiser
Paralegal  Lawyer
Consumer Affairs  Archivist
Associate Contract Administrator

Sample entry-level jobs held by UW–Eau Claire philosophy graduates:
- Enrollment Representative, UnitedHealth Group, Eau Claire, WI
- Self Employed, Kimberly, WI
- Technician, NCO, Mendota Heights, MN
- Continued Education, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Assistant Coordinator, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Learn more about philosophy:
Department
- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Hibbard Humanities Hall 632, 836-2545

Getting Started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alums

Resources at Career Services:
Yellow Section-
- Sigi 3 handouts:
  - Philosophy-Librarian
  - Journalist (Newspaper/Magazine)
  - Advertising Manager/Advertising Executive
  - Foreign Service Officer
  - Teacher, Social Sciences
  - Non-Profit
- Book sections:
  - Education, Childcare & Training
  - Librarian & Information Science
  - Non-Profit Careers

Orange Section-
- Internship information pertaining to Philosophy
- Computers: Internship Center Database and Blugold CareerLink

Blue Section-
- Multiple resources to help you build a resume and cover letter for a career related to philosophy

Opportunities to enhance skills in philosophy:
Internships
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in philosophy, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate. Contact your adviser or the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies chair about enrolling in PHIL 498 to obtain academic credit for your internship.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in PHIL 395, 399, or 499.

Apprenticeship
Participate in a research or teaching apprenticeship in philosophy in which qualified students have the opportunity to collaborate with a faculty member to reinforce and enhance their understanding of philosophy.

Prism
Prism is a student journal published by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. For more information, visit their website.
http://www.uwec.edu/philrel/prism.htm