

# THE PROFESSIONAL POWER OF A PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

## Skill Sets for Any Profession

Angela Davis, social activist



Angela Davis, a proud feminist, Black Panther, prominent social activist, and retired University of California philosophy professor, majored in philosophy at Brandeis University and worked under Herbert Marcuse. These studies strongly influenced her campaigns against racism, capitalist inequalities, sexism, and anti-LGBTQ sentiment.

Phil Jackson, NBA coach



Phil Jackson, legendary Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers coach, majored in philosophy at the University of North Dakota. Players, contemporaries, administrators, and fans call him "The Zen Master." Inquiries into Eastern philosophy helped him develop the coaching style that won him 11 championships as a coach, added to the two earned as a player. He even published a book, *Sacred Hoops*, about how sport and philosophy interplay in his mind.

Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court Justice



Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Thurgood Marshall was the great-grandson of a slave. He studied literature and philosophy at Lincoln University. He founded the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. He argued many civil rights cases, most famously *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* in 1954. In 1967 he became the first African American Supreme Court Justice.

George Soros, billionaire banker



"The Man Who Broke the Bank of England" completed his Bachelor of Science degree in philosophy in 1952 at the London School of Economics. He scored an entry-level job at graduation at Singer & Friedlander, a bank. George Soros applied the critical and analytical skills students of philosophy learn to the world of finance to eventually become up a billionaire, launching his own hedge fund and investment firm.

Ricky Gervais, actor and comedian



The famous comedian of TV shows *Extras* and *The Office* majored in philosophy at University College London. Fans can certainly see the humorous benefits of devoting time, energy, and money towards the philosophical arts if pursuing an entertainment career.

Bruce Lee, martial artist and filmmaker



Bruce Lee studied philosophy extensively at University of Washington and beyond. He read the *Tao Te Ching* and was inspired by the concept of *wu wei*, action accomplishing its purpose in accordance with the natures of things and events. He frequently touted philosophy's role in shaping both his acting and his athletics.

Peter Thiel, founder of Pay Pal



Thiel got his undergraduate degree in 20th Century Philosophy at Stanford in 1989, and a law degree in 1992. Thiel was the co-founder and CEO of PayPal. He currently serves as president of Clarium Capital, and as a managing partner at venture capital firm, the Founder's Fund. He was also the first outside investor in Facebook.

Elena Kagan U.S. Supreme Court Justice



Justice Kagan attended Princeton University where she wrote a senior thesis on the history of American radicalism in the hope of clarifying her own political ideas. She received a fellowship and went to England for a year to study philosophy at Worcester College at Oxford, where she received a Masters of Philosophy degree. She was nominated to the bench by President Obama in May, 2010.

## Study Philosophy...

## to fight for social justice...



"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."  
— Ida B. Wells-Barnett

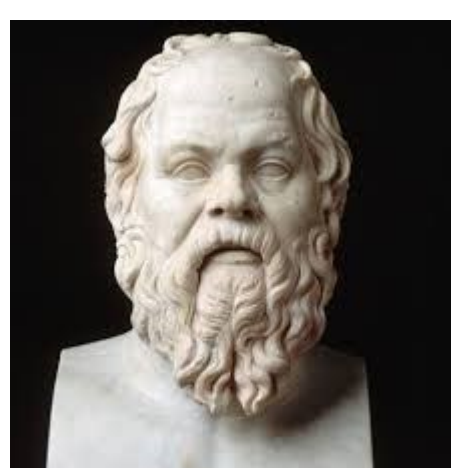
"Action is indeed the sole medium of expression for ethics."  
— Jane Addams



"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." — Cornel West

## to reflect on oneself and one's world...

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." — Martin Luther King, Jr.



"The unexamined life is not worth living." — Socrates

"Imperialism leaves behind germs of rot which we must clinically detect and remove from our lands but from our minds as well." — Frantz Fanon



"The worker must work for the glory of his handiwork, not simply for pay; the thinker must think for truth, not for fame." — W.E.B. Dubois

## Skill Sets for Financial Success

### Annual Salaries and Salary Growth by Undergraduate Major

Source: "Salary Increase by Major," Wall Street Journal ([https://www.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degree\\_that\\_Pay\\_you\\_Back-sart.html](https://www.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degree_that_Pay_you_Back-sart.html))

#### Annual Salary

Median salary of mid-career graduates without higher degrees

Data collected in 2008

Economics	\$98,600
Engineering	\$93,600
Mathematics	\$92,400
Philosophy	\$81,200
Chemistry	\$79,900
Political Science	\$78,200
Business	\$72,100
History	\$71,000
Biology	\$64,800
English Literature	\$64,700
Art History	\$61,900
Psychology	\$60,400
Sociology	\$58,200

#### Salary Growth

Increase from starting to mid-career median salary of graduates without higher degrees

Data collected in 2008

Philosophy	103.5%
Mathematics	103.5%
Economics	96.8%
Political Science	91.7%
Chemistry	87.6%
Art History	81.3%
History	81.1%
English Literature	70.3%
Engineering	69.1%
Psychology	68.2%
Business	67.7%
Biology	67%
Sociology	59.5%

## Skill Sets for Admissions Exams

### L.S.A.T

### (Law School Admissions Test)

Philosophy majors rank **FIRST** among all majors in law school acceptance rate: **82.4%**.

Major	LSAT score	Compared to Average
Philosophy	157.0	+4.7pts
Economics	156.2	+3.9pts
History	154.5	+2.2pts
English	153.5	+1.2pts
Psychology	151.7	-0.6pts
Political Science	151.5	-0.8pts
Accounting	151.5	-0.8pts
Sociology	149.4	-2.9pts
Communications	149.4	-2.9pts
Business Administration	148.2	-4.1pts
Criminal Justice	145.4	-6.9pts

"When I went to law school, I was told by all my professors that they were going to teach me how to 'think like a lawyer.' I soon found out that I already knew how to do that; I had learned to do so as a philosophy major."

John S. Paul, philosophy major and attorney (Bryan, Texas)

### G.R.E

### (Graduate Records Examination)

### THE POWER OF PHILOSOPHY

GRE SCORES BY INTENDED GRADUATE MAJOR, 2011-12

Verbal (Average score out of 170)	Quantitative (Average score out of 170)	Analytical Writing (Average score out of 6)
Philosophy 160	Physics 161	Philosophy 4.4
English 157	Economics 159	English 4.3
Political Science 156	Computer Science 158	Political Science 4.2
Physics 156	Chemistry 157	Physics 4.0
Economics 154	Philosophy 153	Psychology 4.0
Biology 153	Biology 153	Economics 4.0
Chemistry 153	Business 152	Biology 3.9
Psychology 152	Political Science 151	Chemistry 3.9
Education 151	English 148	Education 3.9
Communications 151	Education 148	Communications 3.9
Business 150	Psychology 148	Business 3.7
Computer Science 149	Communications 147	Computer Science 3.4

Source: Educational Testing Service, data available at <https://www.ets.org/gre/scores>

