

Philosophy, Politics & Law BA-MA

A master degree adds problem-solving abilities in new and unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts, ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, ability to formulate judgments with incomplete or limited information, and reflection on social and ethical responsibilities linked to application of knowledge and judgments.

From <http://www.apaonline.org/publications/texts/nona2.aspx>:

Jobs in the private sector that require excellent writing, reasoning, problem solving, and communication skills. For example, “publishing is not only a field with positions for which some philosophers and students of philosophy are well prepared, but also an area which is often intellectually interesting to philosophers. Quite a few philosophers hold editorial positions with university or commercial presses, and others have sales or managerial jobs with commercial publishers. In editorial decision-making, acquisitions, and other phases of publishing, good philosophical training has proved to be excellent preparation. . . . philosophers are particularly able to clarify content without changing meanings; to distinguish what is central from what is not, and to help authors subordinate the latter to the former; and to help less-than-perfectly-articulate writers say what they mean.”

Jobs in government that require excellent writing, reasoning, problem solving, and communication skills. “. . . There are now philosophers on congressional staffs, in federal agencies and bureaus, in state and local governments, and in the employ of the United Nations. Some of them have expressed both a sense that their work is challenging and a great appreciation for their philosophical training as preparation for what they are doing. Consider how a senior congressman expressed his view of the capacities of the philosophers on his staff: ‘It seems to me that philosophers have acquired skills that are very valuable to a member of Congress. The ability to analyze a problem carefully and consider it from many points of view is one. Another is the ability to communicate ideas clearly in a logically compelling form. A third is the ability to handle the many different kinds of problems that occupy the congressional agenda at any time.’ . . .”

Excellent preparation for law school. “. . . The law is not only a career that interests many philosophers and philosophy students; it is also a field for which philosophical training is generally excellent preparation. Furthermore, while the standard path into a legal career is through law school, philosophers have entered the profession of law, for instance in legal research, without having obtained a law degree. Philosophers are also employed in prison administration, as police officers, and in paralegal work as rights’ advocates. . . .”*

Excellent preparation for divinity school, for the reasons mentioned above.

The American Philosophical Association (<http://www.apaonline.org/>) has several helpful publications for more information about programs, jobs, and the discipline:

- *A Non-Academic Career? Information, Resources, and Background on Options for Philosophers*
- *So You Want to Teach Pre-College Philosophy?*
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* Law schools consider undergraduate GPAs in their admissions decisions only.