Recent articles in popular business periodicals have demonstrated the value of a degree in philosophy for people who are interested in careers in business or finance. Business employers seek employees who are able to extract key information from dense reports, summarize the information clearly, and assess the costs and benefits of alternative courses of action. These critical thinking skills prized by companies are developed in every philosophy course.

“Want Innovative Thinking? Hire from the Humanities”
Harvard Business Review, March 31, 2011. As Amos Shapira, the CEO of Cellcom, the leading cell phone provider in Israel, put it: “The knowledge I use as CEO can be acquired in two weeks...The main thing a student needs to be taught is how to study and analyze things (including) history and philosophy...”

“Philosophy is Back in Business”
Business Week, January 12, 2010. “Forget economics. Philosophy offers a deeper, broader way of thinking to help guide companies through times made tougher by overspecialized experts.”

Business schools use the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) to measure potential for success in graduate programs, including MBA programs. Philosophy majors tend to score higher than every major except mathematics, physics, and engineering. In five years, from 2006 to 2011, the average score for philosophy majors was higher (by as much as 100 points) than the average score for every kind of business major (with the single exception of actuarial science in 2008-2009). Profile of GMAT Candidates: Five Year Summary 2006-2011, pp. 11-13.

What distinguishes right action from wrong action?
What obligations do institutions have to society?
What is power? What is the relationship between power and capital?
What are our obligations to obey the law?
Who owns the rights to property? How should we understand intellectual property?
What is technology?
What distribution of resources is most just?

“I Think, Therefore I Earn”
The Guardian, November 20, 2007. “A philosophy degree has trained the individual’s brain and given them the ability to provide management-consulting firms with the sort of skills that they require and clients demand. These skills can include the ability to be very analytical, provide clear and innovative thinking, and question assumptions.”

“The Management Myth”
The Atlantic, June 2006. “If you want to succeed in business, don’t get an M.B.A. Study philosophy instead.”
### Philosophy Courses of Interest to Students Preparing for Business:

In these courses, students learn about philosophical theories that are essential to business practice and values. Businesses shape our lives in numerous ways: as employers, as service providers, and as producers. Individuals in business face moral questions about how to deal with coworkers, customers, vendors, pollution and waste, etc. Moral considerations arise persistently and yet many in business lack the tools to deal confidently and thoughtfully with ethical situations. Similarly, creative yet critical thinking is essential. A gut feeling or instinct is a good starting point, but without careful consideration they can lead to failure. Finally, philosophy students learn clear written and verbal communication, which are essential in business.


### Degree Requirements

#### Major in Philosophy

A major in philosophy requires 33 credits in philosophy (eleven courses). At least fifteen of these credits shall come from the core curriculum, and at least six credits shall come from courses numbered 400 or above. The core curriculum requires:

- One from: 330 (Ethical Theory), 335 (Social and Political Philosophy), or 535 (Contemporary Political Philosophy);
- 310 (Ancient Philosophy);
- Either 314 (17th Century Philosophy) or 315 (18th Century Philosophy);
- One from: 364 (God, Minds, and Matter), 366 (Truth, Belief, and Reason), or 380 (Philosophy of Science); and
- 207 (Introduction to Symbolic Logic)

#### Adding Philosophy as a Second Major

Combining a philosophy major with other majors is a great way to gain knowledge of philosophy and a deeper understanding of the conceptual foundations of the other major. The requirements for philosophy as a second major are the same as the requirements for the major. Philosophy may be designated as the primary or secondary major.

#### Minor in Philosophy

A minor is philosophy is an excellent complement to any major. The minor in philosophy requires fifteen credits (five courses) in philosophy. At least nine of these credits shall come from courses numbered 300 or above.