

A sample of recent press coverage of philosophy and of those who have studied philosophy

"To Be a Good Doctor, Study the Humanities"
Pacific Standard, May 23, 2018
Angira Patel

As a philosophy major in college before medical school, I believe I learned what it means to be a good doctor equally from my humanities classes as from my science classes. Studying the humanities helps students develop critical-thinking skills, understand the viewpoints of others and different cultures, foster a just conscience, build a capacity for empathy, and become wise about emotions such as grief and loss. These are all characteristics that define a good doctor.

A 2009 study found that, once they reach medical school, students who majored in humanities as college students perform just as well as, if not better than, their peers with science backgrounds. Furthermore, a 2010 study assessed the medical school performance of humanities and social science majors who omitted traditional science classes in college, versus those who had a traditional pre-medical preparation. Both groups of students performed at an equivalent level in medical school...A more recent study from [2018] shows that medical students who are exposed to the humanities demonstrate higher levels of positive skills and qualities such as empathy, tolerance for ambiguity, wisdom, emotional appraisal, self-efficacy, and spatial reasoning—all important in being a competent, good doctor. The same study found that humanities exposure is inversely correlated with negative qualities that can be detrimental to physician well-being, such as intolerance to ambiguity, physical fatigue, emotional exhaustion, and cognitive weariness.

Interested in medicine? Consider taking PHIL 236 (Medicine & Morality).

"How Your Philosophy Degree Can Lead to a Career in Data Science"
Silicon Republic, January 28, 2019
Eva Short

Even though philosophy may seem to many an unusual discipline from which to move into data science, John Hearty [data science manager at NuData Security] argues that philosophy skills are useful to data science. "Data science is a field with a lot of conditional decision-making. ... Creating something useful in these complex and conditional circumstances is usually about working out what matters, and which tools and data are going to provide the greatest upside during the time available.

"Philosophy tends to equip you well for reasoning through ambiguous and interdependent problem spaces, by equipping you to objectively identify what really matters, separate concerns and produce a practical, success-maximizing plan...Philosophy also arms one well for the hypothesis-driven, logical practice of data science."

PHIL 111 (Introduction to Logic) provides a solid foundation in reasoning.

"Why a Liberal Arts Education is the Best Foundation for a Career in Finance"
Forbes, August 30, 2021
George Calhoun

[F]or my field - **Finance** - I have come to believe that [a Liberal Arts education] is a *vital differentiator* for my students, and indeed that the virtues and rewards of the liberal arts component of the curriculum are of decisive importance for any student entering the financial services industry.

In Finance, success depends on the ability to cast a broad net and to understand and stay open to events and developments in *all* areas of the economy. And to see and understand the interconnections.

[W]hen I speak to the firms that hire my students, and I ask them what "skill set" they are looking for, at the top of their list are what they call the "soft skills". Those are skills that are cultivated not by STEM, for all *its* virtues, but by a liberal arts education.

[L]iberal arts disciplines have an advantage. Technology is always changing, and today's tech skill set is not going to be a permanent career asset. Critical thinking, on the other hand, *is* a permanent asset. A knowledge of history is a permanent asset. Skill in a language is a permanent asset. The liberal arts are the edge that students are looking for, the best foundation for a successful career in the finance industry.

All PHIL courses emphasize critical thinking and writing, but PHIL 237 (Ethical Issues in Business) emphasizes application within an organizational framework.

"Congressman Ro Khanna Says Hiring Philosophers Can Fix Social Media"
Business Insider, March 6, 2022
Bethany Biron

Rep. Ro Khanna (CA) said he'd advise social media companies looking to make a positive change in the world to hire humanities majors and "liberal arts thinkers."

"I'd say hire 100 philosophy majors, political science majors, journalists, and people who are liberal arts thinkers," Khanna, who represents California's 17th district, home to Silicon Valley, said in an interview.

"And they will help you realize the fundamental naivete of the view that if you just create a platform for people to come talk on and amplify everything that's said, it will somehow lead to mutual understanding, dialogue, and peace. Developing a thoughtful public sphere is so much harder."

Do you aspire to be a positive leader? Our minor in Ethics & Values in Society can help you do meaningful work to improve your community and your own life.