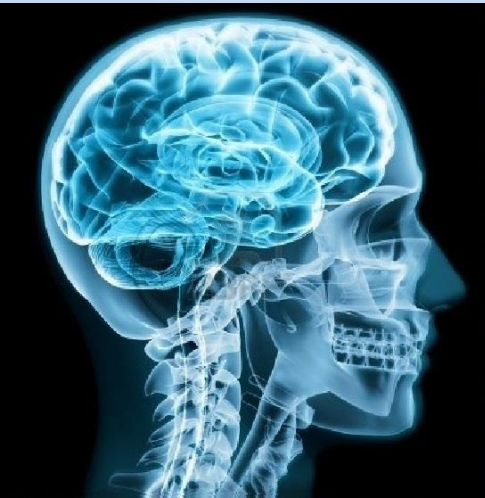
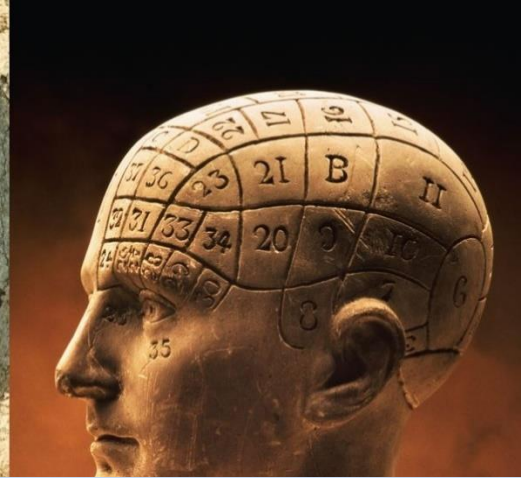
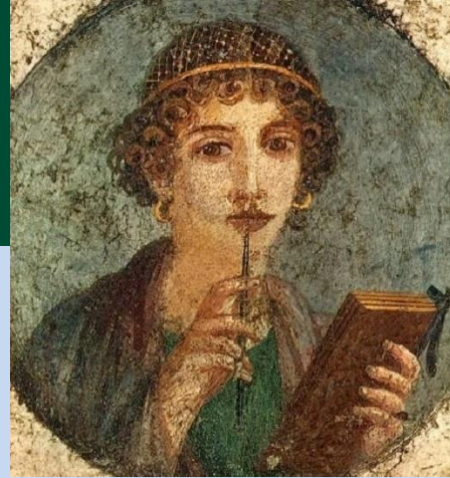


WHY you should study philosophy



HOW to study philosophy

Why study philosophy?

- To learn about the world you inhabit.

What is the
meaning of life?

Do I have free
will?

Does God exist?

What is gender?
Is race real?

Can I ever know
anything with
100% certainty?

Are some
artworks
objectively bad?



Why study philosophy?

- To learn about the world you inhabit.
- To figure out how to live a good life.

What is the right thing to do?

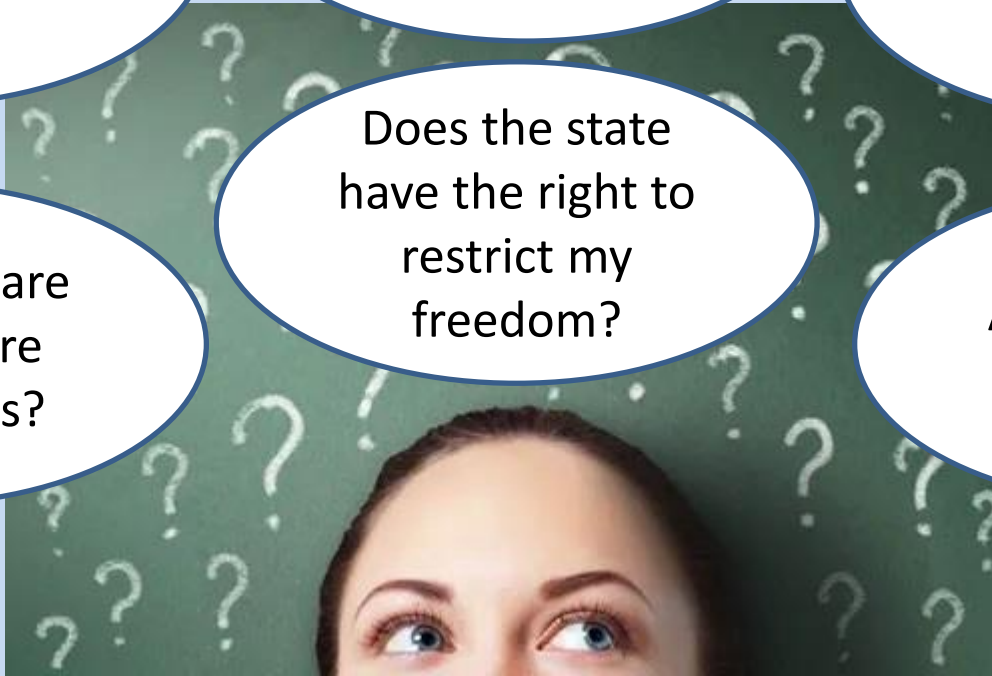
What kind of person should I be?

Is capitalism unjust?

Should we care about future generations?

Does the state have the right to restrict my freedom?

Are there really moral facts?

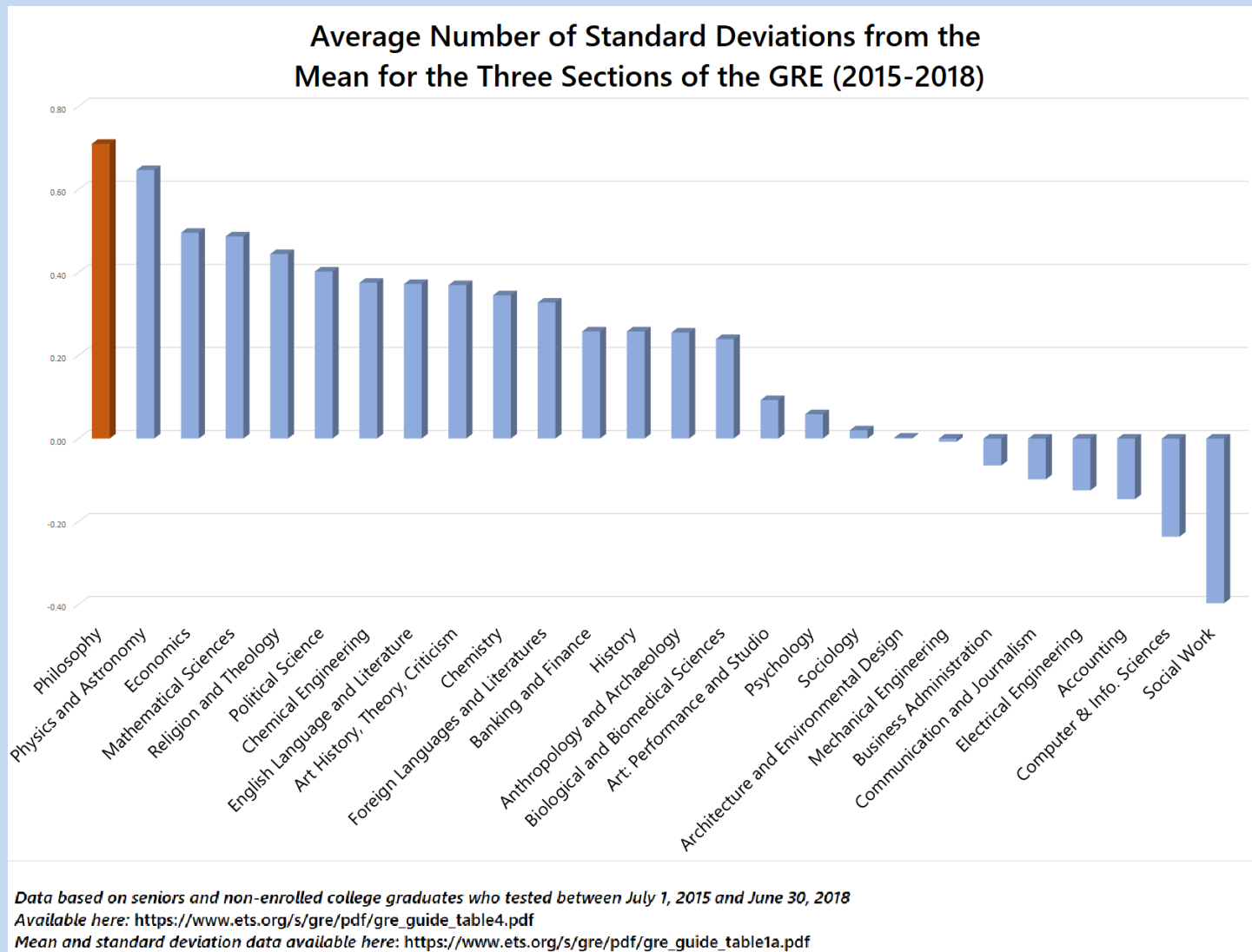


Why study philosophy?

- To learn about the world you inhabit.
- To figure out how to live a good life.
- To discover your own philosophical perspective.
- To improve your critical thinking.



Does philosophy really improve thinking skills?



* The GRE is the world's most widely used admissions test for graduate school.

Does philosophy really improve thinking skills?

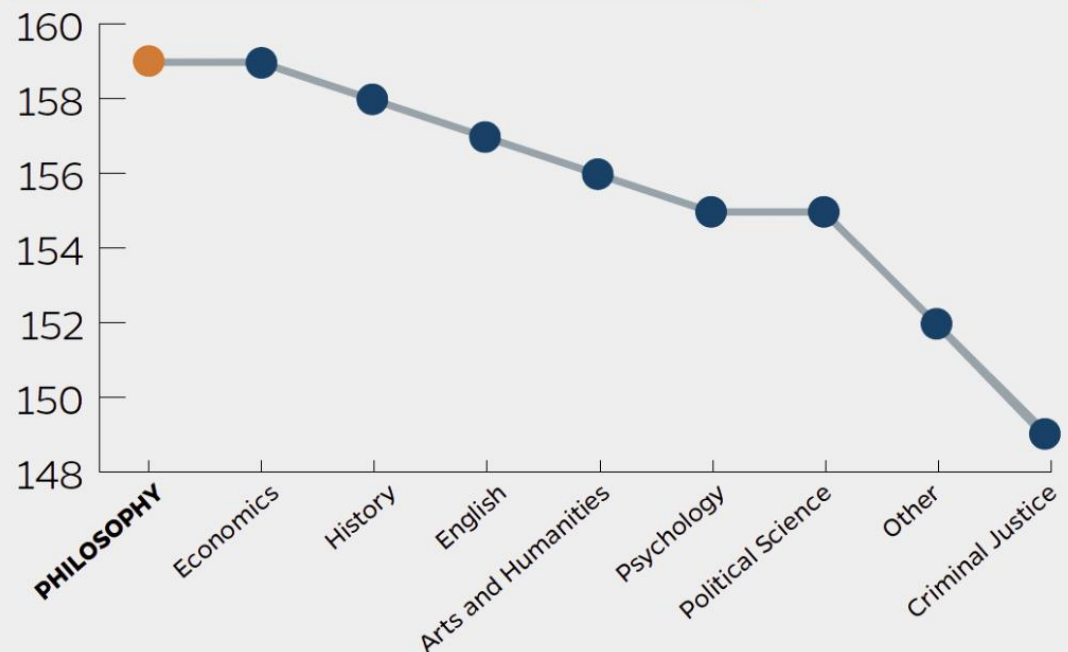
GMAT, 2010-2011

Required by U.S. Business Schools (avg. out of 200-600)



LSAT SCORES BY MAJOR, 2014

Source: Law School Admission Council, 2014



* The GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) assesses analytical, writing, quantitative, verbal, and reading skills for use in admission to graduate management programs. The LSAT (Law School Admission Test) is a standardized test for prospective law school candidates.

Objection!

Does this really show that studying philosophy makes you better at thinking? Or does it just show that people who are good at thinking tend to study philosophy?



Evidence of a Treatment Effect

Incoming students who intend to major in philosophy perform close to the average on standardized tests (Metcalf 2021).

Primary school students who were randomly assigned to study philosophy for 16 months significantly outperformed their peers on standardized tests 2 years later and 10–12 years later (Topping & Trickey 2007a; 2007b).



Why study philosophy?

- To learn about the world you inhabit.
- To figure out how to live a good life.
- To discover your own philosophical perspective.
- To improve your critical thinking.
- To launch your career!

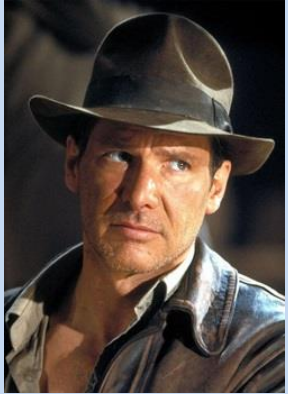


Why study philosophy?

Students who major in Philosophy put their skills to use in a diverse array of professions, and they out-earn many other majors.



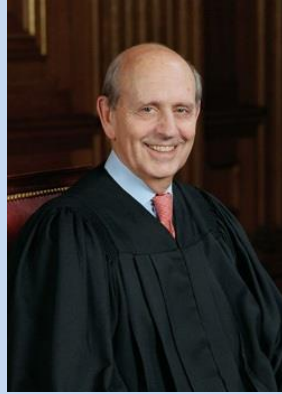
Major possibilities...



Harrison Ford
Philosophy major
(and actor)



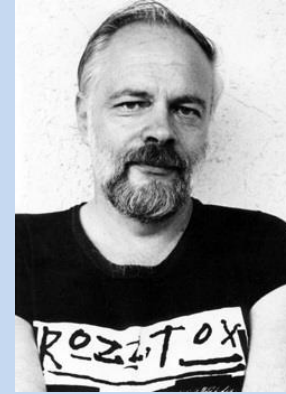
Angela Davis
Philosophy major
(and social activist)



Stephen Breyer
Philosophy major
(& Supreme Court Justice)



Lana Del Rey
Philosophy major
(and singer)



Philip K. Dick
Philosophy major
(and author)



Mary Higgins Clark
Philosophy major
(and author)



Wes Anderson
Philosophy major
(and filmmaker)



Katy Tur
Philosophy major
(and journalist)



Bruce Lee
Philosophy major
(and martial artist)



Steve Martin
Philosophy major
(and comedian)



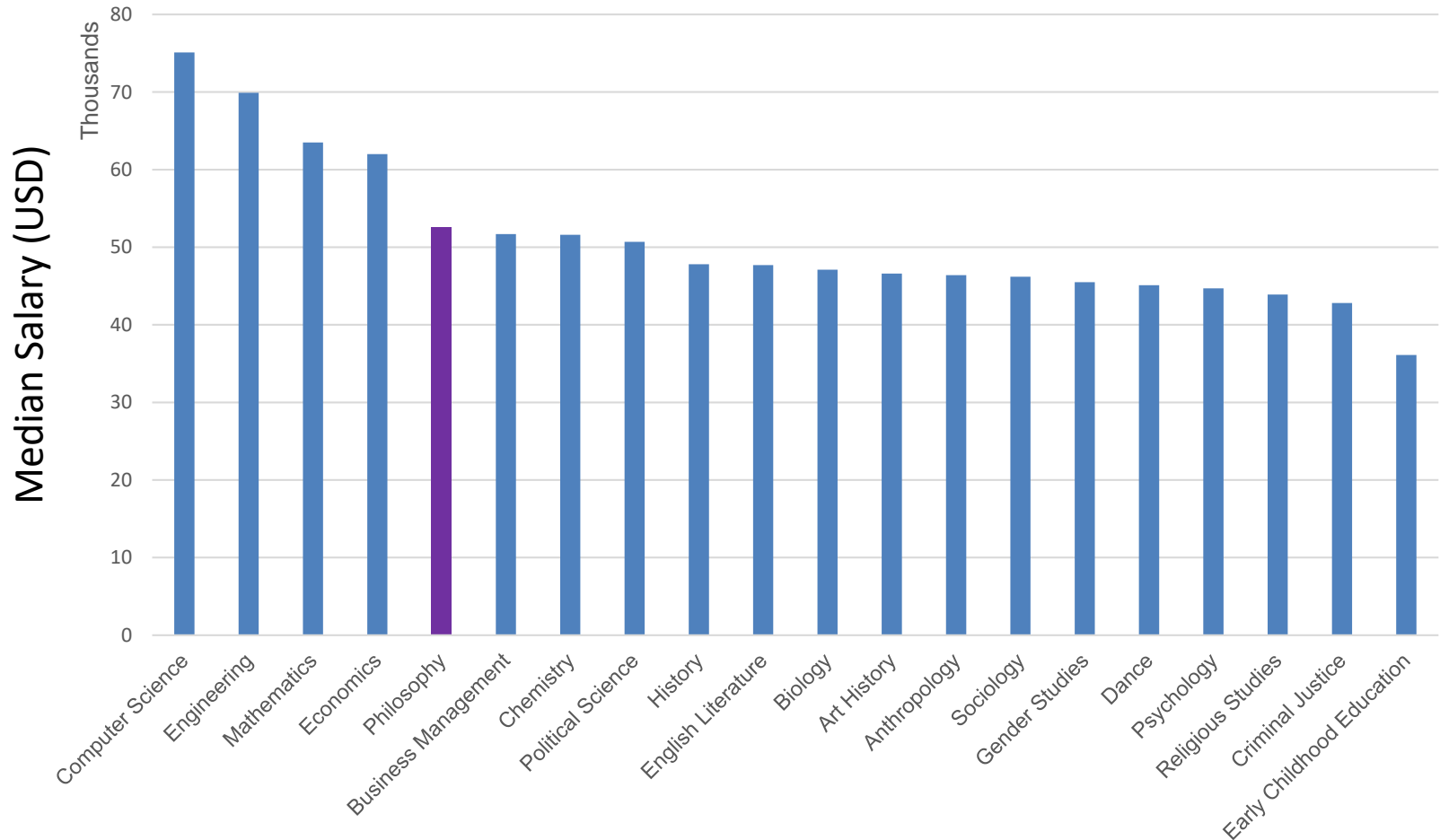
Ethan Cohen
Philosophy major
(and filmmaker)



Rashida Jones
Philosophy major
(and actor)

Do Philosophy majors get paid well?

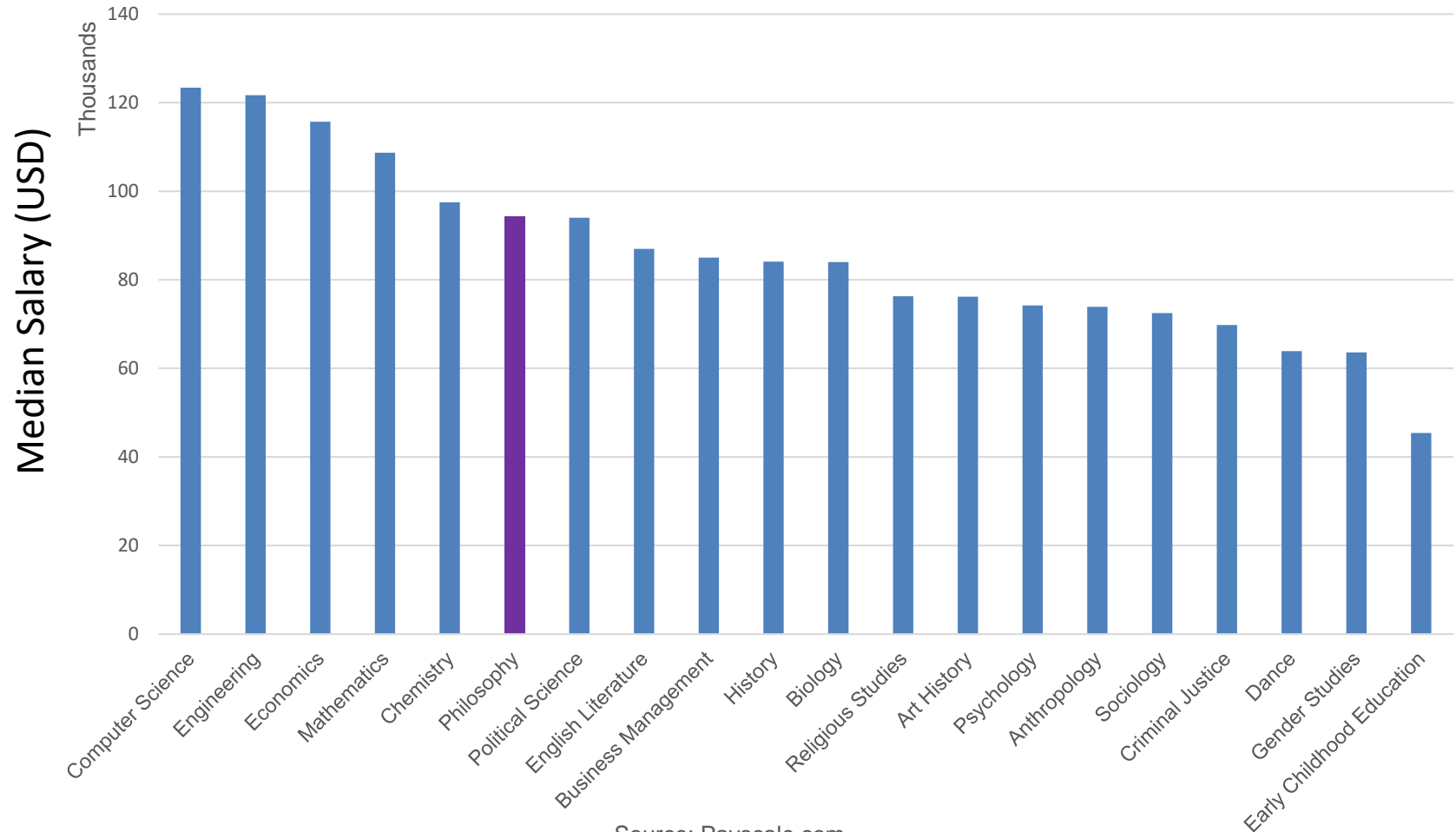
Median Starting Salary by Major 2023



Source: Payscale.com

Do Philosophy majors get paid well?

Median Mid-Career Salary by Major 2023



Source: Payscale.com

Objection! Does this really show that studying philosophy leads to high earnings? Or does it just show that high earners are likely to study philosophy?



Some replies:

1. At the very least, majoring in philosophy doesn't sabotage lifetime earnings.
2. We've seen evidence that philosophy boosts cognitive skills. These correlate with earnings.
3. Business leaders and professionals value philosophy and attribute their success to studying it.



I'm going to make a prediction. In 10 years, a liberal arts degree in philosophy will be worth more than a traditional programming degree.

Mark Cuban
Billionaire, tech guru,
Shark Tank investor



It was by far the best major I could have taken in college. It allowed me to do anything that I wanted to do. Philosophy is a great major because it allows me to ask questions, and that is what I do every day.

Katy Tur

NBC News correspondent,
Philosophy major, UC Santa Barbara



The ability to think methodically and creatively, to argue constructively, and to communicate a position convincingly, is valuable in dealing with challenging policy problems and Ministers.

Robyn Holdaway
Policy analyst,
Philosophy major, VUW



How do I major in Philosophy?

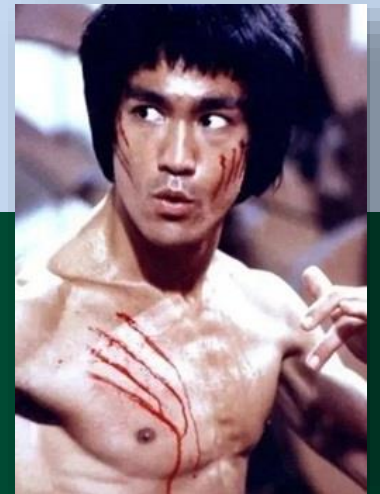
To complete a Philosophy major at VUW, you need...

- **one 100-level PHIL course**
- **two 200-level PHIL courses (INTP261 counts)**
- **three 300-level PHIL courses (POLS362 counts)**
- **and one further PHIL course.**



How do I major in Philosophy?

And don't forget that you can **double major**! Philosophy complements many other subjects.





LEARN MORE:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/hppi/philosophy>



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA