The following is excerpted from a report my colleagues and I submitted on the value of a philosophy major. (co-written by A. Baker, A. Naraghi, and C. Moeller

D. MARKETABILITY: PHILOSOPHY DEGREES & EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS

Philosophy continues to be an attractive major for a wide range of employers and graduate programs. For example, people with BAs in philosophy both earn more money during their lifetimes and have higher starting salaries (an average of $52,600) and mid career salaries (an average of $94,300) than **any other humanities major**, making pursuing philosophy as a single or double major an attractive choice for career-oriented students (American Philosophical Association, 2025). As a result of increasingly favorable employment prospects, interest in pursuing philosophy degrees has risen considerably over the last few decades, with the number of philosophy majors between 1987 and 2014 more than doubling, outpacing the less dramatic overall increase in total numbers of degrees awarded during this period (American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2025).

Citations for above statistics: https://www.apaonline.org/page/data and https://www.amacad.org/humanities-indicators/higher-education/philosophy-degree-completions

Regarding employability, the American Philosophical Association (the main professional body of our field, which tracks enrollment and employment trends in philosophy) released this information based on data collected in 2021 about employment prospects of graduates with BAs in philosophy compared to other degree programs in the humanities.
(Note: you can view the graphic on our GoogleDoc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ud_60bN6nr1FXiA7nZxNoHS9yER1a8ucsUAQ2Mx2Qfk/edit?usp=sharing)

Median Income for Humanities Majors by Career Stage

Years of Experience	Early Career Pay	Mid-Career Pay
Philosophy	$52,600	$94,300
English Literature	$47,100	$87,000
History	$47,800	$85,900
English Language and Literature	$46,400	$78,900
Art History	$46,600	$76,200
Creative Writing	$45,300	$75,200
Theater	$44,600	$70,700
Music	$44,300	$70,200



Source: American Philosophical Association: www.apaonline.org/resource/resmgr/data_on_profession/Philosophy_Majors_After_Coll.pdf

According to data released by the New York Federal Reserve in February 2025, philosophy majors also have **very low rates of post-graduation unemployment**: only 3.2%. Compare with post-graduate unemployment rates of other popular majors: anthropology (9.4%), physics (7.8%), fine arts (7%), sociology (6.7%), computer engineers (7.5%), computer science (6.1%), economics (4.9%), English language (4.9%), political science (4.7%), history (4.6%), and business management (4%).
Citation:
https://www.newyorkfed.org/research/college-labor-market#--:explore:outcomes-by-major

E. POST-GRADUATE EXAMS (LSAT, GRE, GMAT, etc.)

In addition to being the highest earning humanities major, philosophy majors score the ***highest*** **on the LSAT of *any* major** (Law School Admissions Council, 2022), the ***highest*** **on the GRE of *any* major** (Educational Testing Services, 2019), and the ***fourth*** **highest on the GMAT of *any* major** (Daily Nous, 2025). Thus, having a thriving and healthy philosophy program is vital to properly support professionally-oriented students pursuing law school (who take the LSAT), MBA programs (who take the GMAT), and MA programs and PhD programs (who take the GRE).

Sources: https://dailynous.com/value-of-philosophy/charts-and-graphs/
https://dailynous.com/2021/07/14/philosophy-majors-high-standardized-test-scores/
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