Philosophy Career Outlook 2009-2010

Philosophy Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

Major: Philosophy (B.A.)
Minor: Philosophy

Department Website: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/philosophy

Major Highlights:
Philosophy is a systematic attempt to understand and to resolve some of the most profound, far-reaching, and fundamentally important problems of human experience, such as the existence of God, the meaning of life, the problem of free will, and the nature of consciousness, truth, self, knowledge, beauty, justice, time, duty, death, and virtue. Some of its main branches are epistemology (the study of the nature and foundations of knowledge), metaphysics (the search for the ultimately real, the attempt to discern the most fundamental kinds of things which constitute self and world), logic (the study of the principles used in distinguishing between correct and incorrect reasoning), ethics (the study of moral concepts, and the moral education of conduct and character), and aesthetics (the study of art, beauty, and aesthetic judgment). The study of philosophy also includes a careful and critical examination of the basic assumptions, the central concepts, the value assertions, and the conclusions of all other disciplines. Such an examination forms the basis of such philosophic areas as the philosophy of religion, political philosophy, the philosophy of art, and the philosophy of science. A study of philosophy not only enhances our intellectual understanding of the world and enables us to make larger sense out of our experience, but also brings about in us an awareness of the numerous ways in which views and assumptions of a philosophical sort are intimately involved in everyday living. In addition to broadening our perspectives and heightening our sensitivities, it encourages the development of a number of higher intellectual functions. It helps us to discern relationships and organize inferences, to think with clarity and explicate with precision, to critically analyze and think independently, and to probe, question, and explore. The study of philosophy is appropriate for any career or profession that requires critical thinking and communication skills.

Employment Areas:
Philosophy majors can go on to a variety of different career paths. Many go into the teaching field; others go into medicine, law, management, sales and legislative work.

Projected Demand for Philosophy Majors Nationwide:
The DISCOVER guidance systems reports that the nationwide demand for philosophy majors is growing at a moderate rate. To obtain usable specific data, it is advisable to check information for the specific career goals you are interested in.

Placement Information for Philosophy Graduates:
There are many career opportunities for Bemidji State University philosophy graduates. Of the Bemidji State University 2008-2009 philosophy (B.A.) graduates, 75% reported that they have found related employment, however, many listed having a second major. Philosophy students are encouraged to discuss with their advisor the option of a second major or minor that might strengthen or complement their major.

A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Philosophy Graduates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argonne National Laboratory</td>
<td>Student/Research Assistant</td>
<td>Argonne, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borders Books &amp; Music</td>
<td>Book Staff</td>
<td>Henderson, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSU Outdoor Program Center</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Bemidji, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin Coffee House</td>
<td>Owner/Manager</td>
<td>Bemidji, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Probation Department</td>
<td>Probation Officer</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Mills</td>
<td>Customer Service</td>
<td>Plymouth, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Philosophy Graduates (Continued):

Harmony Foods
Mississippi Horizons School
Northwest Minnesota Juvenile Center
Questar Educational Systems, Inc.
St. Louis Park School District
Tri Advantage Credit Services
US Federal Government

Deli Manager/Clerk
Teaching Assistant
Child Care Worker
Test Assistant
Substitute Teacher
Collection Agent
Loan Specialist

Bemidji, MN
Brainerd, MN
Bemidji, MN
Apple Valley, MN
St. Louis Park, MN
Mendota Heights, MN
Minneapolis, MN

Colleges and Universities Where BSU Philosophy Graduates Have Gone to Continue Their Education:

Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
Hamline University, St. Paul, MN
Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AL
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

Note 1: Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.
Note 2: Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.
Note 3: Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

Bibliography:
Annual Graduate Follow-Up Study 1997-2009, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2010)
Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2006-2008, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2009)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in 102 Sanford Hall or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.