

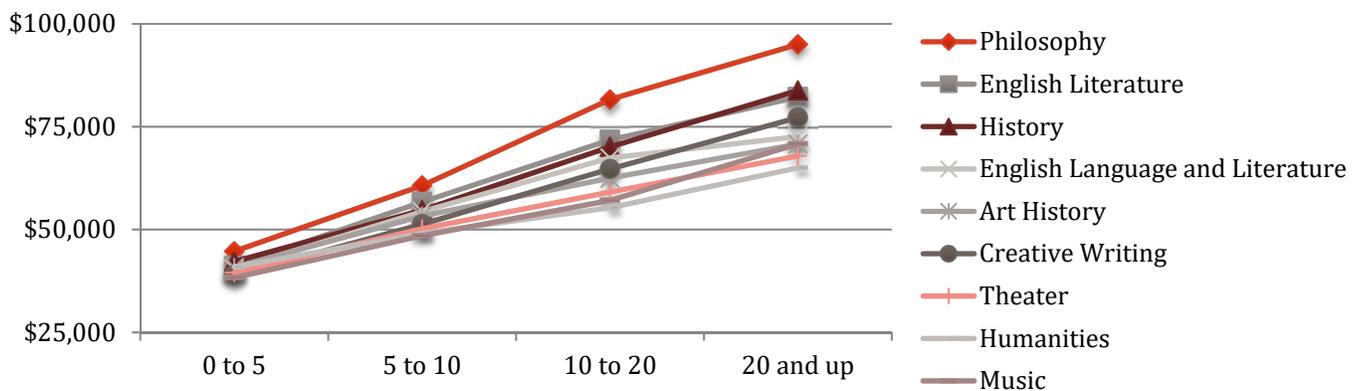
Philosophy Majors After College

Data gathered by PayScale from the 2016–2017 academic year shows that people with bachelor’s degrees in philosophy tend to earn more over their lifetime than people with degrees in any other humanities field.¹ Philosophy students have both the highest starting salary of any humanities major (\$44,700) and the highest percent increase between starting and mid-career salary (\$84,100).²

Additionally, the National Association of Colleges and Employers³ found for the graduating class of 2015 that, within six months, just over 78 percent of graduates with bachelor’s degrees in philosophy had either found employment or were continuing their education (28.6 percent). Graduates with a BA in philosophy had a mean starting salary of \$43,427. Those graduating with a master’s degree in philosophy in 2015 fared even better, with over 85 percent finding employment or continuing their education (47.8 percent) within six months of graduation. Their mean starting salary was over \$75,500.

Median Income for Humanities Majors by Years of Experience

Years of Experience	0 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 20	20 and up
Philosophy	\$44,700	\$60,700	\$81,600	\$95,000
English Literature	\$41,100	\$56,700	\$71,800	\$82,200
History	\$42,200	\$54,700	\$70,100	\$83,800
English Language and Literature	\$40,400	\$54,400	\$67,400	\$72,600
Art History	\$40,800	\$53,300	\$62,500	\$70,800
Creative Writing	\$38,900	\$51,300	\$64,700	\$77,200
Theater	\$39,500	\$50,200	\$59,100	\$67,900
Humanities	\$40,900	\$49,100	\$55,300	\$65,000
Music	\$38,300	\$48,500	\$57,100	\$70,800



¹ PayScale Inc., “College Salary Report,” 2017. <http://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/degrees-and-majors-lifetime-earnings>

² PayScale Inc., “College Salary Report,” 2017. <http://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/majors-that-pay-you-back/>

³ National Association of Colleges and Employers, “First Destinations for the College Class of 2015: Definitions and Detailed Results,” June 2016, p. 32. <http://www.naceweb.org/uploadedfiles/files/2016/publications/product/survey/first-destination/nace-first-destination-class-of-2015-definitions-and-detailed-report.pdf>