

Philosophy Student Performance on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)

Philosophy majors consistently outperform other majors on graduate school admission exams, year after year and across various sections compared to other majors. The success of philosophy graduates on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) is persistent, regardless of changes in content and scoring.

The chart below shows the average scores by major for each of the three GRE sections. For 2019 to 2022, philosophy is the best performing major overall, ranking first in the verbal reasoning and analytical writing sections of the test. Philosophy ranked 16th in the quantitative reasoning portion—the highest score of any humanities field, and in the top third of the 51 majors tracked by the GRE. And these data are consistent from year to year. For example, [data from 2001 through 2004, 2006 through 2009, and 2011-2012](#) also show philosophy students ranking first in verbal reasoning and analytical writing, and performing well in the quantitative reasoning.

Mean GRE Score by Intended Graduate Major (Top 20 of 51 Majors)

Based on Seniors and Non-enrolled College Graduates Who Tested Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2022

#	VERBAL REASONING		QUANTITATIVE REASONING		ANALYTICAL WRITING	
	Field	Mean Score	Field	Mean Score	Field	Mean Score
1	Philosophy	160	Mathematical Sciences	164	Philosophy	4.3
2	Political Science	157	Banking & Finance	163	Political Science	4.3
3	Art History, Theory & Criticism	157	Economics	162	Religion & Theology	4.3
4	English Language & Literature	157	Materials Engineering	162	Law	4.2
5	Other Arts & Humanities	157	Computer & Information Sciences	162	Art History, Theory & Criticism	4.2
6	Library & Archival Studies	157	Physics & Astronomy	161	English Language & Literature	4.2
7	Religion & Theology	157	Electrical & Electronics Engineering	161	History	4.2
8	Physics & Astronomy	156	Chemical Engineering	160	Other Arts & Humanities	4.1
9	Foreign Languages & Literatures	156	Mechanical Engineering	160	Foreign Languages & Literatures	4.1
10	History	156	Industrial Engineering	160	Public Administration	4
11	Anthropology & Archaeology	155	Other Engineering	159	Sociology	4
12	Economics	155	Civil Engineering	159	Secondary Education	4
13	Law	155	Accounting	159	Library & Archival Studies	4
14	Earth, Atmospheric & Marine Sciences	154	Other Business	158	Higher Education	4
15	Mathematical Sciences	154	Chemistry	157	Anthropology & Archaeology	4
16	Other Engineering	154	Philosophy	155	Physics & Astronomy	3.9
17	Sociology	154	Business Administration & Management	155	Other Engineering	3.9
18	Secondary Education	154	Architectural & Environmental Design	155	Business Administration & Management	3.9
19	Business Administration & Management	154	Political Science	154	Earth, Atmospheric & Marine Sciences	3.9
20	Public Administration	154	Earth, Atmospheric & Marine Sciences	154	Biological & Biomedical Sciences	3.9