



What is Philosophy? What will I be learning?

Students will learn to think critically and to express themselves effectively verbally and in writing. Many courses focus on identifying, analyzing and constructing arguments about a wide range of topics. Our courses challenge students to think in new ways and adopt new perspectives as they read works of some of the greatest thinkers, both Western and non-Western, throughout history. Students will explore all major areas of philosophy including logic, ethics, social and political philosophy, metaphysics and epistemology. Our curriculum encourages students to connect philosophical ideas to contemporary social issues and to important personal questions about the meaning of life and the best way to live. Students can explore relationships between philosophy and other disciplines such as psychology, history, nursing, and data science. Our flexible curriculum is ideal as a second major or minor.

"In 10 years, a liberal arts degree in philosophy will be worth more than a traditional programming degree."

— Mark Cuban, 2017
Entrepreneur and star of NBC's Shark Tank

UP FOR THE TEST?
WE ARE!

Philosophy majors have one of the highest law school and medical school acceptance rates.

Highest scores of any major on both the Verbal and Analytical Writing sections of the GRE.

Philosophy majors routinely outperform criminal justice majors, pre-law majors, and most other majors on the LSAT, the standardized test used for law school admissions.



PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

Earn your degree
in a Bachelor of Arts

Also available
as a minor

Contact Us:

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umassd.edu/programs/philosophy



What can I do with this Major or Minor?

Philosophy is an excellent preparation for professional fields such as artificial intelligence, business, communications, government, information sciences, medicine, public relations, and writing — as well as graduate study in philosophy, theology, and many other disciplines. Problem solving, persuasive writing and communication skills are practiced in both the major and minor, giving students many relevant skills for a successful career. You will learn to analyze and evaluate the ideas of others, and clarify and defend your own ideas. Argumentative skills are especially relevant to the workplace as students will need to deliberate with others regarding projects and points-of-view. Research skills are also relevant and students apply these to workplace situations involving the need to scour the Internet and other sources for problem-solving information.



What are the Major and Minor requirements?

PHL Major Requirements: 33 Total Credits

15 credits must be at the 300-level or above

PHL 110 - Principles of Critical Thinking, 3 credits

One three (3) credit course from the concentration area
Moral, Social or Political Philosophy

One three (3) credit course from the concentration area
History of Philosophy

One three (3) credit course from the concentration area
Metaphysics and Epistemology

One three (3) credit course from the concentration area
Critical Philosophy

PHL 409 - Seminar, 3 credits

Plus five philosophy courses, three (3) credits each, in any area at any level - 15 credits total.

PHL Minor Requirements: 18 Total Credits

PHL 110 – Principles of Critical Thinking, 3 Credits.
Complete two Philosophy 300-400 Level Electives.
6 Credits.

Complete two Philosophy Electives, at any level. 6 Credits.
Philosophy 409 Seminar (or a “boosted” 300-level course), 3 Credits.



Famous accomplished people with philosophy degrees:

- Elena Kagan**, Supreme Court Justice
- Martin Luther King, Jr.**, minister & civil rights leader
- Bill Clinton**, US President
- Angela Davis**, social activist and philosopher
- Gerald Levin**, CEO, Time Warner
- Carly Fiorina**, former CEO, Hewlett-Packard
- Pope John Paul II**
- Phillip K. Dick**, science fiction writer
- Wes Anderson**, filmmaker
- Rashida Jones**, actress
- Alex Trebek**, Jeopardy! Host
- Bruce Lee**, martial artist
- Matt Groening**, creator of The Simpsons & Futurama

Top Jobs Include:

- Postsecondary educator (median salary: \$79,540)
- Information scientists (median salary: \$122,840)
- Public relations specialist (median salary: \$61,150)
- Lawyer (median salary: \$122,960)
- Law clerk (median salary: \$59,540)

Philosophy major mid-career salary: \$84,100

“The present value of the extra earnings that graduates in humanities majors can expect over their lifetime is \$302,400 for drama majors, \$444,700 for English majors, \$537,800 for history majors, and \$658,900 for philosophy majors”

— Economist Jeffrey Dorfman, Forbes Magazine 2014

“When accomplished entrepreneurs like Reid Hoffman, Peter Thiel and Carly Fiorina credit their philosophy backgrounds for their success, you have to wonder if they're on to something”

— Nicholas Miller, CEO & founder of Gather; Entrepreneur magazine 2017

“Philosophy majors are twice as likely than other college graduates overall to become CEOs, according to PayScale data analyzed for MarketWatch”

— MarketWatch 2018