What You Need to Know About Becoming a Philosophy Major

A philosophy major learns to think critically, identify and evaluate arguments and engage in moral and ethical reasoning.

PHILOSOPHY MAJORS WILL contemplate ideas that have engaged humankind for centuries as they confront questions related to free will, morality, religion, consciousness and much more. Students will study past approaches to major

topics in philosophy while also learning to develop and express their own opinions. With a degree in philosophy, majors will be well-positioned to apply their strong critical thinking skills in fields including business, law and medicine.

What Is a Philosophy Major?

A philosophy major is a humanities [degree path](#) that will challenge students to examine questions with no right answers. As they become familiar with notable thinkers and diverse worldviews, majors will learn to think critically, identify and evaluate arguments and engage in moral and ethical reasoning. Students can learn both contemporary and historical philosophy, and they will develop the reading and analysis tools necessary to understand philosophical writings from across periods.

In their coursework, majors will ponder arguments related to the best ways to live, the existence of God and the relationship between mind and body. They will also learn the fundamentals of mathematical logic, including the nature of a sound deductive argument. Philosophy majors can also often work with faculty at their schools to study topics they find especially compelling as part of a senior thesis. Students can look for opportunities to publish their writing in undergraduate research journals.

Common Coursework Philosophy

Majors Can Expect

Philosophy majors should expect their degree requirements to cover some fundamental topics while also leaving space to explore. Majors can take classes that survey parts of philosophy's history, provide an introduction to logic and explore the philosophy of language. They will also likely become familiar with some new vocabulary, as parts of the field like metaphysics and value theory drive many class options and requirements. Broadly, metaphysics concerns the fundamental nature of the world, while value theory includes moral, social and political philosophy. By taking classes that host discussions for difficult questions and provide many possible answers, philosophy majors will become skilled at forming arguments that are critical and reasoned.
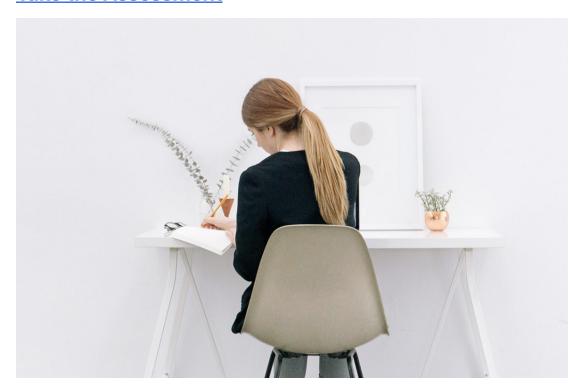
How to Know if This Major Is the Right Fit for You

If you are interested in grappling with hard questions and examining diverse views while considering your own beliefs, philosophy might be the right major for you. Studying philosophy can be relevant to your academic and personal development, since classes may prompt you to not only think critically about the course material but also your own principles. You can also find a place in the major if your

interests range beyond philosophy, as classes connect to disciplines from computing and mathematics to art history.

Discover the perfect major for you based on your innate wiring. The Innate Assessment sets you up for success by pairing you with majors, colleges and careers that fit your unique skills and abilities.

[Take the Assessment](#)

What Can I Do With a Philosophy Major?

Philosophy majors will graduate with strong problem-solving, critical thinking and writing skills that apply to a wide range of professions. Depending on your interests and

experience, those with a philosophy major can become journalists, financial analysts and paralegals. For students interested in graduate or professional study, training in philosophy supports strong performance on admissions tests. With additional degrees, philosophy majors go on to work as lawyers, doctors and university professors.

Schools Offering a Philosophy Major

Check out some schools below that offer philosophy majors and find the [full list of schools here](#) that you can filter and sort.

School Name	Location	Featured Ranking
Princeton University	Princeton, NJ	#1 in National Universities
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, MA	#2 in National Universities
Williams College	Williamstown, MA	#1 in National Liberal Arts Colleges
Amherst College	Amherst, MA	#2 in National Liberal Arts Colleges
Butler University	Indianapolis, IN	#1 in Regional Universities Midwest
Carroll College	Helena, MT	#1 in Regional Colleges West

High Point University	High Point, NC	#1 in Regional Colleges South
Providence College	Providence, RI	#1 in Regional Universities North
Rollins College	Winter Park, FL	#1 in Regional Universities South
Taylor University	Upland, IN	#1 in Regional Colleges Midwest