

# **PHILOSOPHY**

Bachelor of Arts



#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Year1:Take foundational courses and explore your interests.

Year 2: Conduct scholarly interpretation of classic texts of civilization.

Year 3: Engage in special topics such as the philosophy of history, art and science.

Year 4: Complete a capstone experience or an honors thesis.

### **Introduction to the Major**

Philosophy asks the most fundamental questions about existence, the nature of reality, knowledge, and how we should live.

Philosophy students explore the fundamental questions of life, knowledge, and right and wrong. Students are taught to think beyond the easy assumptions and hidden biases to reveal truth, investigate and logically evaluate arguments, and understand the basis for morality.

#### **CORE COURSES**

A major in philosophy is designed to ensure exposure to the systematic fields in philosophy, ensure familiarity with advanced analytics and logical methods, acquaint students with the history of the discipline, and foster faculty-student relationships through advanced seminar and individual research projects. Each student in the department is also required to complete a second major, a minor or a concentration in addition to the courses listed below:

- Two courses in the history of philosophy
- One course in formal logic
- One elective at any level
- Advanced course in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and social philosophy
- One advanced course in a single feature or movement
- One advanced elective
- Capstone seminar or honors thesis

"My philosophy major is an asset in solving some of the toughest problems that plague society."

- ALEXANDER GRAYSON '18



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Connect and engage with communities



Discover and pursue your passions



Develop professional skills



Reflect, design and plan

YEAR

YEAR

Take courses on the history of philosophy and a formal logic course

Take PHIL 141 and PHIL 143 as foundational courses. The symbolic logic course trains you to construct abd assess arguments with precision and skill.

Take an advanced course

Take your first advanced course in ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology. You are eligible to take these starting from your second year.

**Explore the possibilities** 

Consider taking courses in the interdisciplinary concentrations related to Ethics and Public Policy; Law and Society; Health Science. and

Dig into and declare your major/ concentration

> The philosophy major requires you to complete a second major or a concentration. Reach out to faculty for support in declaring your second major/concentration.

Get out of here!

Explore your interests in the public sector through a summer internship. If completed with a faculty adviser, the opportunity can be credit earning. Learn about internship and work opportunities when you visit the Career Connections Center (CCC) and Handshake.

Get involved

Join the editorial board of the Scholarly Undergraduate Research Journal, a student-run interdisciplinary research journal.

Look back and look ahead

Reflect on your experiences. What do you still want to explore? Talk with your adviser about your plans.

**Explore the department** 

Attend events, open houses, and meetings at the

Beck House on the east side of campus.

Attend a talk

Meet with philosophers and other academics who visit campus to share their ideas at the Higgins School of Humanities and other venues.

Learn about campus resources

Visit the Writing Center and Goddard Library. Make ClarkYou your default homepage and explore student resources related to academics, campus life, and health and wellness.

Take a Clark Core course

Explore the core courses which will provide you wtih a wide exposure to the liberal arts.

Take your first 100 level course in

philosophy Take introductory level courses at the

department. Some of these could also fulfill core requirements.

Take Diversity and Inclusion (DI) courses

Explore diverse perspectives and challenge your beliefs and assumptions by taking DI courses.

Talk to faculty

Visit office hours to meet with your profssors. Members of the faculty are eager to hear from

Read the APA guide for undergraduates

The American Philosophy Association publishes a guide for philosophy majors. Read the guide to learn about graduate level programs and to learn about prospective careers.

**Explore off campus** 

Check out community engagement opportunities through the Office of Community Engagement and Volunteering. Look for opportunities that build skills to allow you to apply your knowledge and give back.

# WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

#### **JOBS & EMPLOYERS**

A philosophy major is an ideal first step towards a career in law, public health, management, environmental science, mathematics, journalism and linguistics.

#### **GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Philosophy majors go on to pursue gradaute degrees at reputable universities such as the George Washington University Law School.

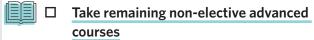
YEAR 3

**YEAR** 

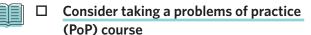




The department offers courses that provide an intense look into a particular philosopher or movement in the field. Look for courses of interest that complete this requirement.



Complete remaining non-elective advanced courses in ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.



Take PoP courses in applied ethics. PoP courses are an opportunity to apply your skills in crititical thinking, writing, and communication in an applied context.

໑ 🥇 🔲 Dive into research

Work with a faculty adviser to propose a research project on a question of interest to you. Consider submitting your proposal research as an honors thesis.

Engage your networks

Join the CCC's Alumni Job Shadow Program to connect with alumni. Experience a day on the job in a field of interest. Participate in careerrelated events on and off campus.

Plan for senior year and beyond

Talk with your faculty adviser about your plans. Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references or write letters of recommendation. Get your resume reviewed through the Career Lab.

Apply for a summer program in philosophy

Talk to a faculty member about summer funded programs that are offered by several universities to introduce students from underrepresented groups to graduate study.



Pull it all together with a capstone

Take the capstone seminar. Your capstone paper is a chance to flex all your philosophy skills.

Strengthen your networks

Find mentors who are knowledgeable about your chosen path. Draw on former Clark Philosophy majors, current faculty, and broader Clark resources to find mentors.

☐ Check in on graduation requirements

Review plans to complete your remaining courses for your major and any outstanding core requirements with your adviser.

☐ Build skills and give back

Work as a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA) for an introductory course. Take on a leadership role while supporting your peers in philosophy.

■ □ Take an advanced elective

Take an advanced course in philosophy that interests you. Fulfill your advanced elective requirement.

If you opted for an honors thesis, continue working on it and complete a defense of your work with faculty.

Present your research at ClarkFEST. Share your work with the Clark community and support your fellow students.

☐ Reach out beyond the classroom

You have developed skills in communicating complex ideas. Consider writing an opinion piece, giving a talk on or off campus, or hosting a student club meeting on a topic of interest.

Visit the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophers to read about philosophers and topics of interest.



## **AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR!**

Clark's philosophy major is designed to help you examine the deepest questions.

As a philophy major, you are encouraged to conduct research, whether as part of a course, an internship, or independent study. Eligible students may apply to the department's honors program and complete a thesis under the direction of a faculty member. Our faculty are scholars in a range of philosophy subfields, including social and political philosophy, the philosophy of culture, philosophy of science, environmental ethics, biomedical ethics, metaphysics, philosophy of religion and more.

## **CONNECT WITH US!**

**Beck House** 

11 Loudon Street

Worcester, MA 01610

https://www.clarku.edu/departments/philosophy/

## **Advising**

We support your academic and personal journey.

You will be assigned an adviser in your first year to help you select your courses and program. Once you declare your major, philosophy faculty will advise you.



Challenge Convention. Change Our World.

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