THE MIND
REASON
HUMAN CONDUCT
ARGUMENT
LANGUAGE
HISTORY
KNOWLEDGE
WRITING
Is Philosophy for you?

If you are the kind of person who is driven by an intellectual curiosity regarding the fundamental nature of knowledge and reality, or our moral obligations and political institutions, philosophy will help you pose relevant questions and seek answers in a systematic and organized way.

The subject matter of philosophy is famously hard to characterize. Perhaps the work of philosophy is best understood as the art and science of critical reflection on our most fundamental beliefs about the world and our place in it. Philosophers identify and articulate the root assumptions of our theories and social practices and ask whether they are good ones—ones that are true or rationally supported—or whether we should revise our beliefs.

Much of contemporary philosophy is interdisciplinary in nature. Philosophers draw on research in other fields for insight while also subjecting those findings to critical scrutiny or “meta-analysis.” So, if you can’t decide on a single discipline, philosophy may be for you. As the saying goes, “Anything you can do, we can do meta.”

Where will you go from here?

If you are thinking about pursuing a major in philosophy, you are bound to run up against the question, “What are you going to do with that?” The answer is: “Pretty much anything you want!” The wide breadth of knowledge, critical thinking, and analytical skills acquired through philosophic training are sought after by today’s forward-thinking employers. There is growing evidence that a major in philosophy equips you with a skillset that’s highly valuable in many professions. Philosophy graduates do extremely well on many standardized tests, such as the LSAT, the GMAT, and the GRE.

Want to know more?

The Philosophy Department offers honours, major, and minor programs. We also have an active Philosophy Student Union, which organizes a range of forums for philosophical discussion. For students planning to enter law school or who are interested in a career in public policy, we now offer a specialized degree concentration: Concentration in Law and Philosophy. The data shows that philosophy majors are better equipped to be admitted to law school than students in most other programs. By focusing on topics in philosophy of law, political philosophy, ethics, and moral theory, the Concentration in Law and Philosophy is directly applicable to legal theory and policy courses, giving you a strong background and a head start in law school.

We also offer several interdisciplinary credentials, such as a joint major in Business, Philosophy, and the Law, as well as two interdisciplinary certificate programs: one is Ethics and the other is the Philosophy and Methodology of Science.

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