



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Undergraduate Handbook

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Questions?

Contact the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#)

BA in Philosophy

What can I do with a BA in Philosophy?

Majoring in Philosophy helps students prepare for future careers by teaching them valuable intellectual skills, including how to:

- **Think rigorously**
- **Express ideas clearly and logically**
- **Understand and evaluate conflicting points of view**
- **Reason in a careful way**

Philosophy raises fundamental questions about ourselves and the world, which result in a sharpened perception of the value of our lives and an increased ability of analysis. Such critical ability enables students to better understand the world around them; to evaluate the values and social forms by which we live; to ask which values should have priority and why; to make judgements about how various social structures realize, or fail to realize, these values.

In addition to offering extensive courses on philosophical thought, the Philosophy Department supports the career interests of its students, offering courses in logic, medical ethics, business ethics, philosophy of law, social philosophy, philosophy of science, and philosophy of religion. Career opportunities for philosophy majors include academics, law, business, public administration, journalism, health care and more.

What about Philosophy as a second major?

This can be a great idea. Your first major likely raises questions about value or methodology that philosophy can explore, so philosophy can deepen and broaden your training in your first major. It can also enhance your intellectual skills—to question, to think seriously, and to speak clearly. So, a second major in philosophy can better prepare you for a profession in your first field or for graduate school.

Requirements for a BA in Philosophy

All majors must take at least eleven courses in philosophy. Seven of these courses must be at the 300-level (eight, if 301 is taken). Each student's major program must include:

- **One lower-level philosophy course from the ethics group**
- **One course from the metaphysics/epistemology group**
- **One course in formal logic**
- **One course in ancient philosophy**
- **One course in classical modern philosophy**
- **One philosophy capstone seminar**
- **Five other elective philosophy courses, of which at least four must be at the 300-level**

Please contact the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#) with any questions.

BA in Philosophy

Recommended Course Schedule

Year One (2 Courses)

- Ethics Requirement
- Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

Year Two (3 Courses)

- Formal Logic Requirement: 274 or 301
- Ancient Philosophy Requirement: 304
- Classical Modern Phil. Requirement: 309

Year Three (3 Courses)

- PHIL Elective Course (100-, 200-, or 300-level)
- PHIL 300-level Elective Course
- PHIL 300-level Elective Course

Year Four (3 Courses)

- PHIL 300-level Elective Course
- PHIL 300-level Elective Course
- Capstone Seminar Requirement: 395-399

Major Tracking

_____ Ethics

Course number: _____

_____ Metaphysics/Epistemology

Course number: _____

_____ Formal Logic

Course number: _____

_____ Ancient Philosophy

Course number: _____

_____ Classical Modern Philosophy

Course number: _____

_____ PHIL Elective (any level)

Course number: _____

_____ (4) PHIL 300-Level Electives

Course number: _____

Course number: _____

Course number: _____

Course number: _____

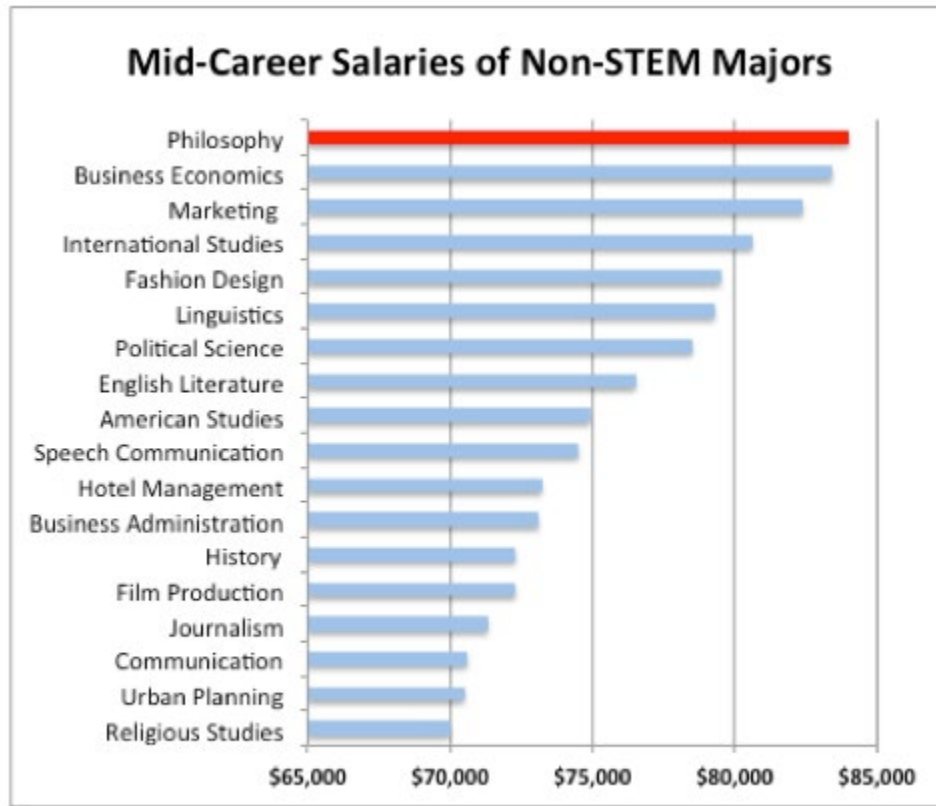
_____ Capstone Seminar

Course number: _____

BA in Philosophy

What can I do with a BA in Philosophy?

Philosophy majors go on to have very successful careers:



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Philosophy majors have the **highest** starting salary of all Humanities majors, and their salaries increase more than any other Humanities major by mid-career.¹

Philosophy majors have **higher** mid-career salaries than those who major in:²

- Accounting
- Education
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Communication
- Biology
- Journalism
- Advertising

¹ https://www.apaonline.org/resource/resmgr/data_on_profession/philosophy_majors_after_coll.pdf

² <https://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/majors-that-pay-you-back/bachelors>

BA in Philosophy

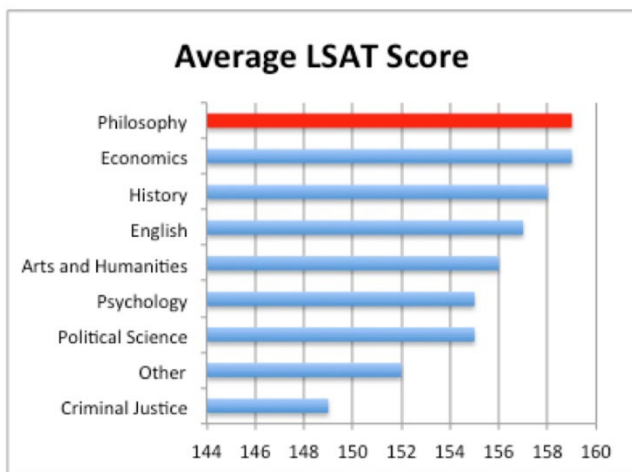
If you would like to pursue a graduate degree, you will have to apply to graduate programs. Most graduate programs will require you to take a standardized examination and report your score to them in your application. **Philosophy majors do remarkably well on these exams.**

GRE Required by most graduate programs



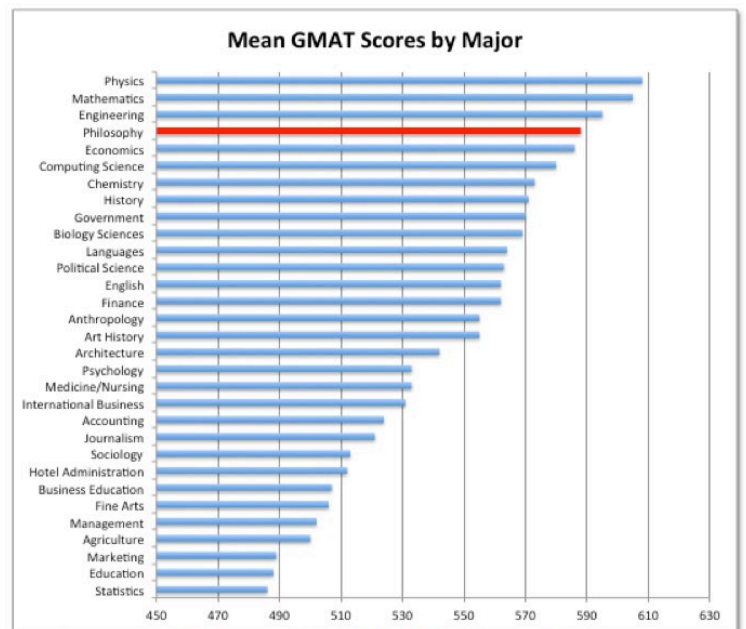
Data ©2014, Educational Testing Service, based on college graduates who tested between August 1, 2011 - April 30, 2014.
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LSAT Required by most law schools



Data ©2014, Law School Admission Council, Inc., based on >1000 test takers.
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GMAT Required by most business schools and MBA programs



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Philosophy Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of their Philosophy major or minor, students will be able to:

- Analyze major texts in the history of philosophy.
- Articulate major philosophical problems and their solutions, such as questions concerning truth and knowledge, reality, moral values, and justice.
- Distinguish and explain different philosophical methodologies or approaches.
- Explain and apply ethical frameworks.
- Evaluate or construct arguments.

Philosophy Degree Specializations

The philosophy major is extremely customizable and easily suited to your goals. Of the 11 courses required for the major, only 3 are fixed: Logic (274), Ancient Philosophy (304), and Classical Modern Philosophy (309). Beyond that, you have flexibility to chart your own course. You can also choose to specialize in one of four areas:

Specializations

- **ETHICS & VALUES**
- **LAW, SOCIETY & SOCIAL JUSTICE**
- **MIND & SCIENCE**
- **EXISTENCE, MEANING & CULTURE**

For more information on pursuing a Philosophy Major Specialization, please contact the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#).

Philosophy Degree Specializations

ETHICS & VALUES (E&V)

Courses in the E&V specialization focus on ethical and moral issues, investigating how meaning, value, and moral responsibility operate to constitute an ethical human life. E&V courses each address some of the following topics: *meta* questions about value, the status of moral judgments, the nature of freedom, etc.; *normative* questions that encompass personal ethical choices, how individuals and groups should live together in a society, or ways to make ethical judgments; and *applied* questions about, for example, health care, education, or the environment. Potential topics include: Is moral value culturally relative? What makes something good? What is a good human life? Should voluntary euthanasia be legalized? What obligations does each person have, both to themselves and each other? Here concerns about moral rights, needs, capabilities, and character often play a role in deciding how we should go about making choices, especially when other people's interests are involved.

LAW, SOCIETY & SOCIAL JUSTICE (LSSJ)

Courses in the LSSJ specialization focus on questions of justice—which is to say questions of how we should best live together, structure our societies, and justify our systems of law—developing the ability to critically examine our existing communities, societies, and laws. Students with an LSSJ specialization gain a solid understanding of the philosophical foundations of law, politics, and governance, as well as insight into theories of social justice, economic justice, racial justice, gender justice, environmental justice, etc. LSSJ specialists are thus well-equipped to pursue advanced study of these questions (for example, in law school), to engage in socio-political critique, and/or to strive for positive social and political change.

MIND & SCIENCE (M&S)

Courses in the M&S specialization focus on topics in epistemology (the study of knowledge) and metaphysics (the study of reality and first principles), with a particular emphasis on philosophy of science and the philosophy of mind. Topics in epistemology include the nature of justification, certainty, belief, truth, and good reasoning; the nature of scientific inquiry; the roles of values in science; and decolonizing knowledge. Metaphysics covers issues that lie at the foundation of other disciplines, including the nature or existence of reality, soul, body, mind, God, freedom, and human persons. Addressing both historical and contemporary approaches to these topics, an M&S specialization complements further study in the fields of neuroscience, psychology, biology, physics, chemistry, medicine, mathematics, and other related disciplines.

EXISTENCE, MEANING & CULTURE (EMC)

Courses in the EMC specialization ask about how we find meaning, both as individuals and as parts of communities and cultures that precede and might outlast us. What does it mean to be a person? What is it like to be a person? How do we respond to, critique, and carry on the past? EMC courses are broadly conversant with and build upon 19th and 20th century European philosophy, focusing on issues in phenomenology (the study of experience), hermeneutics (the study of interpretation), existentialism, philosophical anthropology, feminist philosophy, gender theory, critical race theory, and aesthetics. Topics in these areas intersect with, but are not reducible to, issues in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Specific approaches may be historical and/or conceptual, analytic and/or continental, intradisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary.

Honors in Philosophy

REQUIREMENTS AND STEPS

1. Be a philosophy major and have a GPA of at least 3.5 in Philosophy
2. Write an Honors Thesis and pass an Oral Defense on the thesis
3. Take one extra upper-level Philosophy course

Start by contacting the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#). A student pursuing honors in philosophy chooses a topic to research and selects a faculty member who agrees to supervise the student's work on the thesis. The Honors Advisor sets up a committee for the oral defense consisting of the faculty member who supervised the thesis and two additional faculty members.

The student may develop the thesis from an earlier paper written for a philosophy course. Also, the student may take the required extra philosophy course as a directed readings course with his or her faculty supervisor.

A draft of the thesis must be completed early enough in the semester that the faculty supervisor can make comments for possible revision. The other members of the defense committee may offer feedback if they wish.

When the thesis is completed, an oral defense of the thesis is scheduled, usually by the student and his or her faculty supervisor. The three faculty members participating in the oral defense then vote on whether the student has passed the defense.

Honors in Philosophy

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be a member of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program in order to graduate with honors in philosophy?

No. The two programs are completely independent of each other.

When do I need to sign up or declare that I want to graduate with honors in philosophy?

For a student graduating in the spring, it is a good idea to start the process sometime in the fall semester of one's final year in order to allow ample time to get things done. However, a student may sign up as late as the first few weeks of the spring semester.

How do I sign up?

Contact the [Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Director](#).

How long does the honors thesis need to be?

There is no set page minimum or maximum. The thesis should be a substantial paper. A student's faculty supervisor will help the student determine what is required in her or his chosen area of study.

Do I need to write the thesis "from scratch"?

No. Doing so is permitted, but students often start with a paper they have written for a philosophy class and revise, expand, deepen, and develop it into a bigger, better paper.

Do the above deadlines mean that I can submit my thesis during finals week?

No. The normal procedure is for a student to submit a draft of the thesis to the supervising faculty member (or to all three faculty members on the defense committee, if they are willing) of the student's thesis. The faculty supervisor (and perhaps the other faculty on the defense committee) critique the paper and return it to the student for revisions. The revised version of the thesis is then given to all three members of the committee approximately one week before the scheduled defense of the thesis. As a general rule, the student should expect to submit a draft by the tenth week of classes.

Who decides if the honors thesis and oral defense satisfy the requirements?

That determination is made by the three faculty members who take part in the student's oral defense of the thesis.

How long is the oral defense?

There is no required time limit, but typically the defense lasts between one and two hours. Usually, the student begins by summarizing the thesis (this might take 5–10 minutes) and then the faculty members ask the student questions about the thesis (or the research for it, or its applications) for about an hour. The student then leaves the room while the faculty members decide whether the student passed. The defense is not so much an examination as it is a discussion.

Honors in Philosophy

The Honors Thesis

The Honors Thesis is more than a paper written for a class. In general, it is longer, better developed, and more sophisticated. It should be similar to a paper written by a first-year graduate student. Minimally, the Honors Thesis must be a good philosophy paper, although we expect that a major working at honors will aim to make their thesis even better than that. The descriptions below indicate what to aim for and also what sort of work falls short.

Outstanding

- The thesis statement is clearly and fully articulated
- The paper presents a clearly structured argument that is complete and easy to follow
- The reasons/premises are stated clearly and are relevant and internally coherent
- The reasons/premises directly support the argument and the explanation makes it clear why this is so
- The paper acknowledges and explicitly responds to counterarguments with sophistication
- The paper uses appropriate textual references whose presence is clearly helpful and explicitly explained
- The paper uses an accurate and insightful interpretation of the texts it uses
- The paper offers a thoughtful and persuasive critical evaluation of the various positions and arguments presented

Good

- The thesis statement is clear and fully articulated
- The paper presents a well-reasoned argument without important steps in the argument being left out or difficult to find
- The reasons/premises are stated and relevant
- The reasons/premises support the argument, even if the reasons why they support the conclusions are not fully or clearly articulated
- The paper notes that there are counterarguments to its thesis and indicates how they might be responded to
- The paper uses textual references that contribute to its argument or its discussion of counterarguments
- The paper accurately interprets the texts it uses
- The paper offers some critical evaluation of its own thesis and/or arguments and/or of the counterarguments it identifies

Honors in Philosophy

The Honors Thesis

Less Than Adequate

- There is a thesis that is evident, but it is not clear and/or is not easy to find
- Argumentation is present, but is incomplete and/or its elements are difficult to find
- The reasons/premises of the argument are evident, but are incompletely or unclearly stated
- The reasons/premises lend support for the conclusions, but the conclusions do not follow unless other reasons/premises are assumed which are not stated and/or the relation between the stated reasons and their conclusions is not explained
- Some obvious counterarguments are noted, but others are missed and/or possible responses to those that are mentioned are absent
- Textual references are made but they are either not necessarily appropriate or their connection to the reasoning in the paper is unclear
- The interpretation of the texts that are used is fairly accurate and does not force the texts to fit a certain role in the paper
- The paper shows a few signs of critical evaluation regarding the various positions and arguments presented, but it is spotty and incomplete in this respect

For further information, please contact the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#).

Minor in Philosophy

Why should I minor in Philosophy?

In every major area of study there are questions about values or methodology that philosophy can explore. So, philosophy can deepen your understanding of your major field of study. In addition, philosophy trains a person to think rigorously about fundamental questions—to express ideas clearly and logically—to understand and evaluate conflicting points of view—to reason in a careful way. These intellectual skills are useful in almost any career. And of course, like every minor, philosophy is an area of knowledge that has its own intrinsic value.

The Philosophy Department offers three minors in philosophy:

The Three Philosophy Minors

- **GENERAL PHILOSOPHY MINOR**
- **BIOETHICS MINOR**
- **ETHICS AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY MINOR**

Requirements for a Minor in Philosophy

All minors must take at least six courses in philosophy, at least two of these being 300-level courses. Each student's minor program must include:

- **One lower-level philosophy course from the ethics group**
- **One lower-level philosophy course from the metaphysics/epistemology group**
- **Two elective philosophy courses at any level (e.g., another core course from either Tier 1 or Tier 2, or a 300-level course)**
- **Two elective philosophy courses at the 300-level**

Please contact the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#) with any questions.

Minor in Philosophy

You can design a program to fit your own needs. If you plan a law career, for example, you would likely want to emphasize areas like reasoning, evidence and political theory. Academic counselors can help you design a program. What follows are some suggested sequences for students preparing for careers in law, business, medicine, or religion. Of course, the general requirements stated previously must be incorporated in these suggested sequences.

Suggested Minor Sequence in Pre-Law

- Ethics (181)
- Logic (274)
- Social and Political Philosophy (182)
- Theory of Knowledge (275 or 330)
- Two PHIL 300-level Elective courses. Recommended: Philosophy of Law (323), Political Philosophy (326 or 327), or Marxism (375)

Suggested Minor Sequence in Pre-Business

- Ethics (181) or Social and Political Philosophy (182)
- Logic (274)
- Theory of Knowledge (275 or 330)
- Contemporary Ethical Issues (285)
- Two PHIL 300-level Elective courses. Recommended: Ethics and Society (321), Philosophy of Law (323), Political Philosophy (326 or 327), Marxism (375)

Suggested Minor Sequence in Pre-Health

- Ethics (181)
- Social and Political Philosophy (182)
- Health Care Ethics (284)
- Philosophy of Science (273 or 381)
- Two PHIL 300-level Elective courses. Recommended: Ethics and Society (322), Philosophy of Medicine (369)

Suggested Minor Sequence in Religion

- Ethics (181)
- Philosophy of Religion (271)
- Medieval Philosophy (305) or Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas (340)
- Topics in Philosophy of Religion (380)
- Two PHIL 300-level Elective courses. Recommended: Issues in Philosophy of Human Nature (310), Problems in the Philosophy of God (312)

Minor in Bioethics

The interdisciplinary minor in bioethics encompasses work in the fields of biology, natural science, philosophy, sociology and theology. It enables students to study topics in which the life sciences and ethics converge.

The bioethics minor helps to prepare students for a range of future careers, or for advanced study in ministry, the health professions, the sciences, teaching, law, journalism, research, government or social work. For many students, the study of bioethics not only deepens their understanding of science and its impact on our lives, but also strengthens their ability to think broadly and critically, and to better see the vital integration of science and technology with individuals and the world around us.

Why study bioethics?

Bioethics addresses many of the issues that have - or will have – a major impact on individuals and on our society. Some of the many important questions raised by bioethicists include:

- Who should be screened for genetic diseases, and how should we make use of the genetic information we collect?
- What are the biological and philosophical underpinnings of our conceptions of race, gender, and sexual orientation, and how should we use these concepts?
- Can an understanding of issues such as global warming, pollution, and habitat destruction help us to understand the relationship between human beings and the natural world?

Requirements for a Minor in Bioethics

The minor in bioethics requires at least seven courses completed with a grade of “C” or better. Each student's minor program must include:

Science Requirement

- all (4) of BIOL 101, BIOL 111, BIOL 102, BIOL 112 **OR**
- three (3) courses in the natural sciences*

Ethics Requirement

- PHIL 284: Health Care Ethics
- Two (2) courses in philosophy, theology, sociology, psychology or health systems management*, at least one of which must be at the 300-level

Interdisciplinary Capstone Requirement

- BIET 395 or BIET 396

*Please see the LUC Academic Catalog for detailed information about which specific courses satisfy this requirement

Please visit luc.edu/bioethics for more information!

Bioethics Minor Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will:

- Understand relevant scientific concepts, techniques, and methods as they relate to bioethical topics.
- Recognize bioethical issues.
- Apply ethical reasoning and ethical judgment (concepts, theories, methods) to discuss bioethical issues.
- Integrate science and ethics such that students can take a bioethical topic or issue and connect the scientific with the ethical issues.

Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy

Ethics is a central area of human concern and human inquiry. A special concern with ethics and human values is one of the things that defines Loyola University Chicago and the Jesuit Tradition. Philosophy and philosophical treatments of ethics and ethical theory are foundational for the critical discussion of ethical issues in other fields. The Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy can prove to be a significant credential for some students, both for finding employment and for admission to graduate or professional school, as there is increasing attention to the study of ethics in professional schools.

Requirements for a Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy

For this minor a student must take six courses in ethics. At least four of these six courses must be taken from the Philosophy Department, and at least two of them must be at the 300-level. Each student's minor program must include:

- **Two lower-level philosophy courses in ethics***
- **Two 300-level philosophy courses in ethics***
- **Two additional courses from:**
 - THEO 192: Topics in Moral Problems
 - THEO 340: Foundations of Christian Morality
 - THEO 342: Perspectives on Life and Death
 - THEO 344: Theology and Ecology
 - Up to two additional elective philosophy courses in ethics at any level (e.g.100-, 200- or 300-level)

*Please see the LUC Academic Catalog for detailed information about which specific courses satisfy this requirement

- Note that a student can incorporate the courses taken for the Core Curriculum into this minor, in such a way that only some additional courses are needed to complete this minor. For example, a student can take two Core philosophy area courses in ethics and one Core theology area course in ethics. That student would then take three additional ethics courses (of which two are from Philosophy at the 300-level) in order to receive the Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy.
- Philosophy Majors cannot receive the Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy.

Please contact the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#) with any questions.

Five-Year BA/MA in Philosophy

The BA/MA in Philosophy program allows students to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy in five years. This accelerated degree program is a cost-effective option for undergraduate majors wishing to pursue graduate education in philosophy. It prepares students to apply for doctoral programs and gives them a chance to work with faculty they already know at the graduate level.

A student enrolled in this program is an undergraduate for four years and a graduate student for one year. Philosophy majors must apply to the BA/MA program in their junior year. They will then have a modified program of study in their senior year, taking courses at both the graduate and undergraduate level that count toward their BA and MA, before completing a fifth year of graduate study.

Program Highlights:

- Cost-effective option for undergraduate majors interested in pursuing graduate education in philosophy.
- Takes half the time to complete than a traditional MA at a new institution
- Provides excellent preparation for applying to PhD programs and pursuing specialized research at the doctoral level
- Offers continuity of education, allowing students to continue working with faculty they already know

Admission Requirements

- Junior philosophy major
- Overall GPA of 3.3 or higher
- GPA of 3.5 or higher in philosophy (with at least 5 completed courses, 3 at the 300-level)
- Apply by March 15th of junior year

Application

Submit a transcript, a writing sample, a one-page statement of purpose, and three letters of recommendation from full-time Loyola philosophy faculty members to the current Graduate Program Director.

Questions?

Contact the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#) or [Graduate Program Director](#).

BA/MA in Philosophy

Years 1-4 (Undergraduate student)

Complete BA in Philosophy:

- One course from the ethics group
- One course from the metaphysics/epistemology group
- Logic
- Ancient Philosophy
- Classical Modern Philosophy
- PHIL Capstone Seminar*
- One PHIL Elective Course (100-, 200-, or 300-level)
- One PHIL 300-level Elective Course
- Four PHIL 400-level Elective Courses (double-count towards the MA)*

*BA/MA students are not required to take the PHIL Capstone seminar. If students replace their BA capstone seminar with a graduate seminar, they take an additional three 400-level electives, “double dipping” these (for a total of four double-dipped courses) towards their BA and MA. If students take the BA capstone seminar, then they take four “double-dipped” 400-level courses as electives.

Year 5 (Graduate student)

Complete MA in Philosophy:

1. Take six (6) graduate courses to complete the MA in Philosophy. The six graduate courses – plus the four graduate “double dipped” courses taken towards the MA as an undergraduate – complete the 10 courses required for the MA.

- One graduate course in Ancient Philosophy
- One graduate course in Medieval Philosophy
- One graduate course in Modern Philosophy
- One graduate course in Continental Philosophy
- One graduate course in Analytic Philosophy
- Five 400-level Philosophy Elective Courses*

* Comprised of one 400-level elective course and the four graduate “double-dipped” courses taken towards the MA as an undergraduate i.e. students must take one additional 400-level course.

2. MA Examination: Toward the end of year five, students pursuing the BA/MA in Philosophy must pass an oral examination before a committee of at least three faculty members on a research paper he or she has written. The focus of the examination is on the argument and analysis of the paper, as well as on the background thought that the argument and analysis presuppose.

Academic Advising

Students pursuing a major or minor in philosophy are encouraged to plan their selection of courses with the [Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director](#), or with their designated academic advisor, each semester prior to registration.

Double-Dipping Policy

1. Students may not major or minor in the same discipline.
2. Majors: No fewer than **21 credit hours in the individual student's transcript must be unique to each major**; that is, the courses in question are considered as actually fulfilling requirements of one major, not of more than one major.
3. Minors: No fewer than **6 credit hours in the individual student's transcript must be unique to each minor**; that is, the courses in question are considered as actually fulfilling requirements of one minor, not of more than one minor or major.

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)

About Minorities and Philosophy

MAP's mission is to address structural injustices in academic philosophy and to remove barriers that impede participation in academic philosophy for members of marginalized groups. Through our international organizing team and graduate student-led network of autonomous chapters around the world, we aim to examine and dismantle mechanisms that prevent students from marginalized groups from participating in academic philosophy, as well as to promote philosophical work done from marginalized perspectives, and help improve working conditions for scholars from marginalized backgrounds. See more about MAP International at MapfortheGap.com

For more information, email graduate student organizer Jason Stephens (jstephens10@luc.edu).

Join MAP!

Applications are accepted year-round on a rolling basis.

Loyola Philosophy students have started a chapter of Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)! As part of our MAP chapter, we have developed a program for students from marginalized and underrepresented groups in philosophy. Undergraduate students in the program will be connected with graduate students, faculty, and undergraduate peers! The program provides mentorship, assistance in navigating the university and philosophical discipline, and the opportunity to participate in MAP programming and events such as talks, screenings, Virtual MAP Lounge, and more.

MAP understands "underrepresented groups" to include BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, disabled/differently abled folks, and women. This is a year-long program. You can be of any major or minor (not only philosophy)!

To apply to the program, please find the application form on our website:

<http://bit.ly/LoyolaMAP>

Other Undergraduate Opportunities

Philosophy at the Rome Center

Students find a special home at Loyola's [John Felice Rome Center](#). The Rome Center is a beautiful villa located on Monte Mario, about twenty minutes from the center of the city. It consists of classrooms, library, residence hall, computer center, chapel, recreation rooms, administrative offices, a dining facility and a coffee bar on a spacious landscaped campus. The center of Rome, the ancient Forum and Colosseum, the Vatican and the train station are all a short bus or metro ride from the campus.

Philosophy Club

The [Loyola University Chicago Philosophy Club](#) aims to build a community of people who enjoy having conversations on topics that matter such as: forgiveness, love, friendship, trust, happiness, suffering, death, justice, psychology, law and punishment. The Club meets once a week during the semester for free pizza and conversation. All are welcome! No background in Philosophy is necessary.

Bioethics Club

Loyola's Bioethics Club focuses on having collaborative and meaningful discussions about relevant bioethical topics. The club has bi-weekly meetings that include case discussions, current events, movie screenings, game nights, and student-created cases. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact loyolabioethicsclub@gmail.com.

Bioethics Bowl and Ethics Bowl

The Bioethics Minor Program sponsors Loyola's Ethics Bowl and Bioethics Bowl teams. Each team competes in an intercollegiate bowl each year at universities across the United States. If you are interested in finding out more about Ethics Bowl or Bioethics Bowl, please contact Jennifer Parks at jparks1@luc.edu.

Undergraduate Testimonials

What drew you to Philosophy?

"Philosophy was the first class that I took where I wasn't challenged to memorize information, but I was challenged to actually think. After that class I started reading Ancient Greek philosophy. At first I was just intrigued, but that quickly turned into a full-blown addiction."

"I took an introductory class my freshman year with Dr. Bergeron, this experience pushed me to take on a minor in Philosophy. I then took Philosophy of Science with Dr. Harrington, and this pushed me to become a major and ultimately pursue philosophy in Graduate School for the next year."

Who is your favorite philosopher or what is your favorite philosophical work and why?

"Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* because of how thoroughly he moves through philosophy, and connects it to the Catholic faith."

"Plato, I fell in love with Plato from the first time I read the *Republic* because I was shocked that women were included in his egalitarian society. This immediately piqued my interest, and I started reading his other works. I became addicted to his dialectic style and specifically the Socratic method. I actually wrote my honors thesis on the relationship between medicine and philosophy in Plato's works."

What is one example of the way you use philosophy in your everyday life?

"It changes the way you think and observe the world around you; you think differently about problems and interactions. So, it is hard to give one example of an instance where I use philosophy in my daily life. I have been forever changed by my philosophical education; I would not be who I am today without it. I guess a better answer might be that everything I do and say are examples of how I use philosophy in my daily life."

"Every time I read the news. Also, in how I apply my own ethical principles to my own life."

Undergraduate Testimonials

What is one challenge you experienced as a philosophy major or in your philosophy classes, and how did you overcome it?

"A challenge that I experienced was, early on in my education I was heavily involved in the hard sciences, physics and biology, this didn't allow me to develop my writing skills adequately enough for writing philosophy papers. I then took multiple philosophy writing intensive classes, with Dr. Harrington and then Dr. Scott. The experiences with these two wonderful professors greatly increased both my ability and my confidence in my academic writing ability. Now I have publications in undergraduate philosophy journals because of their help and some academic growth on my part."

How do you see your education in philosophy helping you succeed beyond college?

"Philosophy has taught me how to think. As a future lawyer this is an invaluable lesson. I have learned to think critically and write successful argument papers. These are invaluable lessons that will strengthen my future law career."

"I believe that the skills philosophy provides are very practical. Although not all knowledge gained is practical, the skills for comprehending, writing, and analyzing are helpful no matter the career I choose to pursue."

What advice would you give a first-year student who is interested in majoring in philosophy?

"Do it. Majoring in philosophy is the most eye-opening experience; it will challenge you in a way that you have never been challenged before, but you will come out the other side knowing how to think critically. This is a tool that you will be able to use in every aspect of life."

"Do not be intimidated, and come in with a willingness to learn. Also, do not expect all the answers to life. Some things remain a mystery."

What was your favorite philosophy class at Loyola?

"It is very hard to pick one philosophy class at Loyola, I have loved all of my experiences within this department. All of my professors have been a tremendous help in my growth as a person and as a student. I thank you all for your patience and assistance in my journey."