



# Philosophy

## at Benedictine University

### Why study philosophy at Benedictine?

When you chose to major in Philosophy at Benedictine University, you receive the benefits of a broad liberal arts education. This provides career benefits beyond simply attending a professional school or obtaining an entry-level business or public sector position. Philosophy trains the mind to think clearly. A major in Philosophy will help strengthen your abilities to organize ideas and issues and to draw reasonable, workable and justifiable conclusions from complex information, beliefs or data. You will learn transferable skills, including logic and persuasion, problem-solving, improved reading skills, writing and research — all of which are of enormous value in any career. In addition, a major in Philosophy will help you to develop an understanding and enjoyment of things, such as the lively and thoughtful discussion of a very wide range of current issues and ideas, communication and engagement with many different kinds of people, aesthetic experiences, discerning observation of human affairs and intellectual zest.

A major in Philosophy will stimulate you to explore ideas and issues which you have never previously even considered. You will confront and resolve ethical and foundational issues, and explore the philosophical ideas and ideals of civilization as discussed by its greatest thinkers. You will study the history of ideas, investigate ethical principles and their multitudinous contemporary applications, and confront and explore classic questions regarding the nature of the human person and the structure and makeup of reality.

Studying philosophy at Benedictine offers you:

- A special pre-law program for majors and minors.
- Ideal student-to-faculty ratios.
- A small university community atmosphere, with the option of living on or off campus.
- A safe, beautiful suburban setting near the rapidly expanding high-tech corridor with easy access to Chicago.
- A highly dedicated and knowledgeable faculty.

### How does the program work?

If you decide to major in Philosophy, you will study the history of philosophy and ideas. You will investigate classic questions regarding the human person, such as the nature of the self, freedom, death and immortality, and the relationship between the individual human person and the human community. You will examine basic principles of reality, knowledge and language as they affect all thought — such as change and permanence, knowledge and belief, unity in diversity, and the meaning of goodness, value, truth or beauty. You will explore ethical principles and their application to a wide range of moral-ethical questions and problems. These may pertain to health and medicine, war and peace, the advance of technology, and business, political and economic theory.

The remainder of your coursework will come either from the department's other course offerings or from other arts, humanities or science offerings on which you and your philosophy faculty advisor agree. What follows is one possible program for a Philosophy major. It is only a sample. A department faculty advisor will assist you in developing a program specifically suited to your needs.

### Demonstrate your social conscience with a certificate in Environmental Studies.

Students with an interest in the environment can earn a certificate in Environmental Studies by choosing specific environmental-focused courses from the anthropology, biochemistry, biology, environmental science, geography, global studies, humanities, literature, management, natural science, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology and theology disciplines. Students will learn about the scientific, humanistic, educational and business aspects of sustainability.

*"Philosophy trains the mind to think clearly. To major in Philosophy is to begin living 'an examined life' — and to prepare oneself well for a career in law, business or education."*

*Martin Tracey, Ph.D., professor of Philosophy, Benedictine University*

# Recommended Program

## Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

### FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH 105, 108 or 110)	3
Social Scientific I: Individuals, Organizations and Societies (QIO) course	3
Greek Philosophy	3
Modern Language	3
	15

Research Writing	3
Basic Speech	3
Life Scientific (QLS) course	3
Philosophy of Human Nature	3
Modern Language	3
	15

### JUNIOR

Literary and Rhetorical (QLR) course	3
Modern Philosophy	3
Social Scientific II: Political, Global and Economic Systems (QPE)	3
Historical (QHT) course	3
General Ethics	3
	15

Contemporary Continental Philosophy	3
Religions/Theological (QRT) course	3
Philosophy elective (300 level)	3
Artistic and Creative (QCA) course	3
Human Dignity and the Common Good (IDS 301)	3
	15

### SOPHOMORE

Introduction to Logic	3
Philosophy of Being	3
Computational, Mathematical and Analytical (QCM)	3
PHIL 250	3
Modern Language	3
	15

Medieval Philosophy	3
Theory of Knowledge (or approved substitute)	3
Physical Scientific (QPS) course	3
Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201)	3
Modern Language	3
	15

### SENIOR

Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy	3
Philosophy elective (300 level)	3
Social Scientific II: Political, Global and Economic Systems (QPE)	3
Electives	6
	15

Life Scientific (QLS) or Physical Scientific (QPS) course	3
Philosophy elective (300 level)	3
Electives	9
	15

Some major courses are offered on a two-year cycle, so the above recommendations may require appropriate alterations.

## What careers are available with a degree in Philosophy?

Philosophy by itself, or in combination with a minor or second major in another area, provides you with both the skills and the adaptability to pursue a wide variety of careers in such areas as administration, business, education, governmental service, law, research, science and technology. Skills fostered by studying philosophy are never obsolete, nor are they subject to changing demands of the marketplace. The Philosophy major is ideally suited for students planning to go on to law school, graduate school or to the ministry. Benedictine University graduates in Philosophy are typically accepted into graduate and professional programs of their choice. Listed below are some of the positions Benedictine University philosophy graduates currently hold:

- Attorney
- Administrator
- Bishop
- Business Professional
- Child Care Worker Supervisor
- College Professor
- Computer Analyst
- High School Principal
- High School Teacher
- Librarian
- Newspaper Editor
- Police Detective
- Priest
- Religious Education Director