

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 getting one's foot in the door to an entry-level business, professional school 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 understanding and enjoyment of things whose absence impoverishes many lives 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 make-up 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 — e.g. 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 program adviser agree. What follows is one possible program for a philosophy major. It is only a sample. A department faculty member, assigned to you as advisor, will assist you in developing a program specially suited to your needs.

Demonstrate your concern for the environment 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, Philosophy

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH S105, S108 or S110)	3
Social Science core elective	3
Ancient Greek Philosophy	3
Modern Language	3
	15

Research Writing	3
Basic Speech Communication	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Philosophy of Human Nature	3
Modern Language	3
	15

JUNIOR

Literature core elective	3
History of Modern Philosophy	3
Social Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 240)	3
General Ethics	3
	15

Recent Continental Philosophy	3
Religious Studies core elective	3
Philosophy elective (or other)	3
Fine Arts core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
	15

SOPHOMORE

Introduction to Logic	3
Philosophy of Being	3
Elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220)	3
Modern Language	3
	15

History of Medieval Philosophy	3
Theory of Knowledge (or substitute)	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 230)	3
Modern Language	3
	15

SENIOR

Recent Anglo-American Philosophy	3
Philosophy elective (or other)	3
Social Science core elective	3
Electives	6
	15

Natural Science core elective	3
Philosophy elective (or other)	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 philosophy degree?

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