DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

6300 Horizon Hall
Fairfax Campus

Phone: 703-993-1290
Website: philosophy.gmu.edu

Undergraduate Programs

The department offers a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy, which covers the major issues and areas in philosophy. It is intended to serve the needs of students who wish to pursue graduate studies in philosophy or emphasize philosophy while acquiring a broad liberal arts education. Majors in philosophy take courses in a variety of philosophical traditions and study logic, ethics, and social and political philosophy. With the skills of critical thinking, clear writing, and analytical reasoning that are the hallmark of philosophy majors, students are well-prepared for a wide range of careers including law, government service, or graduate study.

The philosophy program can complement other interests of students when they complete a second major in another field. Students who plan to pursue more than one undergraduate major should work out a program of study in consultation with advisors from both majors and be familiar with the relevant policies for completing more than one major. See Undergraduate Policies (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/#ap-5-3-7).

In addition to the general degree in philosophy, students can choose one of two concentrations. The concentration in philosophy and law (https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba/#phlw) offers philosophy majors the opportunity to focus their study of philosophy in a way that prepares them for the study of the law. The concentration in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba/#ppe) (PPE) is a high credit concentration for students interested in a program that explores the interdisciplinary connections between philosophy, political science, and economics.

Minors

The department offers minors in ethics and AI (https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/ethics-ai-minor/), philosophy (https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-minor/), philosophy and law (https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-law-minor/), and philosophy for social change (https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-social-change-minor/). These minors are available to students in any major. The department, in cooperation with the Schar School of Policy and Government, coordinates the interdisciplinary minor in political philosophy (https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/political-philosophy-minor/).

Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Program

The department offers highly qualified undergraduate majors in philosophy the opportunity to apply to an accelerated master's degree program in philosophy. If accepted, students will be able to earn both the undergraduate and graduate degrees after satisfactory completion of 139 credits, generally within five years.

Graduate Programs

The department offers a master of arts degree in traditional and contemporary philosophy as well as a specialized concentration in ethics and public affairs. The degree is designed for students who want to further their professional goals or foster their intellectual development. It provides a solid preparation for advanced work in philosophy or other fields such as women and gender studies, cultural studies, or law. The degree provides grounding in the history of philosophy, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, contemporary continental thought, contemporary analytic philosophy, and philosophy of science.

The focus on traditional and contemporary philosophy of the master's degree program provides students with a historical and pluralistic approach to philosophical questions. The concentration in ethics and public affairs gives students the opportunity to explore the ethical and philosophical issues that arise in such fields of study and work as business, health care, scientific research, biomedical technology, and public policy.

Students are encouraged to pursue opportunities beyond the classroom such as study abroad, professional internships, and research with faculty members.

Faculty

Department Faculty
Distinguished University Professor

Andrew Light (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/alight1/)

Professor

Lisa Eckenwiler (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/leckenwi/)

Emeritus Professors

Debra B Bergoffen (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/dbergoff/)
Martin J De Nys (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/mdenys/)
Roger Paden (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/rpaden/)

Associate Professors

Wesley Buckwalter (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/jbuckwal/)
Claudia Cabello Hutt (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/ccabello/)
Rose M Cherubin (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/rcherubi/)
Rachel Jones (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/rjones23/)
Ted Kinnaman (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/tkinnama/)
Davis Kuykendall (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/dkuykend/)

Assistant Professors

Kurt Brandhorst (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/kbrandho/)
Daniel J Nicholson (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/dnicho/)
Andrew H Peterso (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/apeter31/)n
Dasha Pruss (https://philosophy.gmu.edu/people/dpruss/)

Programs

- Ethics and AI Minor
- Philosophy Minor
- Philosophy and Law Minor
- Philosophy for Social Change Minor
- Philosophy, BA
- Philosophy, MA
- Political Philosophy Minor (CHSS)