

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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.

In addition to the general degree in philosophy, students can choose a concentration in philosophy and law. This concentration offers philosophy majors the opportunity to focus their study of philosophy in a way that prepares them for the study of the law.

Minors

The department offers a minor in philosophy and a minor in philosophy and law. 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.

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 145 credits, generally within five years.

Graduate Programs

The department offers a master of arts degree in traditional and contemporary philosophy as well as specialized concentrations in philosophy and cultural theory and 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. The concentration in philosophy and cultural theory

provides students with a distinctive and important theoretical foundation for doctoral work in cultural studies.

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

Faculty

Department Faculty

Professors

Light

Professors Emeriti

Bergoffen, De Nys, Fletcher, Holman, McDermott, Paden, Sagoff, Skousgaard

Associate Professors

Cherubin, Eckenwiler, Froman, Jones, Kinnaman

Assistant Professors

Fyfe, Peterson

Term Professors

Boyd, Brandhorst, Kuykendall

Adjunct Professors

Evans, Faruggia, Kirilov, Kirkpatrick, Olsen, Sojka, Venner, Will

Programs

- Philosophy Minor
- Philosophy and Law Minor
- Philosophy, BA
- Philosophy, MA
- Political Philosophy Minor