



HIGHLIGHTS

Year 1: Take foundational courses and explore your interests.

Year 2: Conduct scholarly interpretation of classic texts of civilization.

Year 3: Engage in special topics such as the philosophy of history, art and science.

Year 4: Complete a capstone experience or an honors thesis.

Introduction to the Major

Philosophy asks the most fundamental questions about existence, the nature of reality, knowledge, and how we should live.

Philosophy students explore the fundamental questions of life, knowledge, and right and wrong. Students are taught to think beyond the easy assumptions and hidden biases to reveal truth, investigate and logically evaluate arguments, and understand the basis for morality.

CORE COURSES

A major in philosophy is designed to ensure exposure to the systematic fields in philosophy, ensure familiarity with advanced analytics and logical methods, acquaint students with the history of the discipline, and foster faculty-student relationships through advanced seminar and individual research projects. Each student in the department is also required to complete a second major, a minor or a concentration in addition to the courses listed below:

- Two courses in the history of philosophy
- One course in formal logic
- One elective at any level
- Advanced course in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and social philosophy
- One advanced course in a single feature or movement
- One advanced elective
- Capstone seminar or honors thesis

“My philosophy major is an asset in solving some of the toughest problems that plague society.”

— ALEXANDER GRAYSON '18



PHILOSOPHY Bachelor of Arts



DESIGN
YOUR
JOURNEY



Explore
and navigate
Clark curriculum



Connect
and engage
with communities



Discover
and pursue
your passions



Develop
professional
skills



Reflect,
design
and plan

YEAR 1

YEAR 2



- Explore the department
Attend events, open houses, and meetings at the Beck House on the east side of campus.



- Attend a talk
Meet with philosophers and other academics who visit campus to share their ideas at the Higgins School of Humanities and other venues.



- Learn about campus resources
Visit the Writing Center and Goddard Library. Make ClarkYou your default homepage and explore student resources related to academics, campus life, and health and wellness.



- Take a program of Liberal Studies (PLS) course
Explore the PLS courses which will provide you with a wide exposure to the liberal arts.



- Take your first 100 level course in philosophy
Take introductory level courses at the department. Some of these could also fulfill PLS requirements.



- Take Diversity and Inclusion (DI) courses
Explore diverse perspectives and challenge your beliefs and assumptions by taking DI courses.



- Talk to faculty
Visit office hours to meet with your professors. Members of the faculty are eager to hear from you.



- Read the APA guide for undergraduates
The American Philosophy Association publishes a guide for philosophy majors. Read the guide to learn about graduate level programs and to learn about prospective careers.



- Explore off campus
Check out community engagement opportunities through the Office of Community Engagement and Volunteering. Look for opportunities that build skills to allow you to apply your knowledge and give back.



- Take courses on the history of philosophy and a formal logic course

Take PHIL 141 and PHIL 143 as foundational courses. The symbolic logic course trains you to construct and assess arguments with precision and skill.



- Take an advanced course
Take your first advanced course in ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology. You are eligible to take these starting from your second year.



- Explore the possibilities
Consider taking courses in the interdisciplinary concentrations related to Ethics and Public Policy; Law and Society; Health Science, and Society.



- Dig into and declare your major/concentration
The philosophy major requires you to complete a second major or a concentration. Reach out to faculty for support in declaring your second major/concentration.



- Get out of here!
Explore your interests in the public sector through a summer internship. If completed with a faculty adviser, the opportunity can be credit earning. Learn about internship and work opportunities when you visit the Career Connections Center (CCC) and Handshake.



- Get involved
Join the editorial board of the Scholarly Undergraduate Research Journal, a student-run interdisciplinary research journal.



- Look back and look ahead
Reflect on your experiences. What do you still want to explore? Talk with your adviser about your plans.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

A philosophy major is an ideal first step towards a career in law, public health, management, environmental science, mathematics, journalism and linguistics.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Philosophy majors go on to pursue graduate degrees at reputable universities such as the George Washington University Law School.

YEAR 3



Delve deeper

The department offers courses that provide an intense look into a particular philosopher or movement in the field. Look for courses of interest that complete this requirement.



Take remaining non-elective advanced courses

Complete remaining non-elective advanced courses in ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.



Consider taking a problems of practice (PoP) course

Take PoP courses in applied ethics. PoP courses are an opportunity to apply your skills in critical thinking, writing, and communication in an applied context.



Dive into research

Work with a faculty adviser to propose a research project on a question of interest to you. Consider submitting your proposal research as an honors thesis.



Engage your networks

Join the CCC's Alumni Job Shadow Program to connect with alumni. Experience a day on the job in a field of interest. Participate in career-related events on and off campus.



Plan for senior year and beyond

Talk with your faculty adviser about your plans. Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references or write letters of recommendation. Get your resume reviewed through the Career Lab.



Apply for a summer program in philosophy

Talk to a faculty member about summer funded programs that are offered by several universities to introduce students from underrepresented groups to graduate study.

YEAR 4



Pull it all together with a capstone

Take the capstone seminar. Your capstone paper is a chance to flex all your philosophy skills.



Strengthen your networks

Find mentors who are knowledgeable about your chosen path. Draw on former Clark Philosophy majors, current faculty, and broader Clark resources to find mentors.



Check in on graduation requirements

Review plans to complete your remaining courses for your major and any outstanding PLS requirements with your adviser.



Build skills and give back

Work as a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA) for an introductory course. Take on a leadership role while supporting your peers in philosophy.



Take an advanced elective

Take an advanced course in philosophy that interests you. Fulfill your advanced elective requirement.



Conduct research

If you opted for an honors thesis, continue working on it and complete a defense of your work with faculty.



Share your learning

Present your research at ClarkFEST. Share your work with the Clark community and support your fellow students.



Reach out beyond the classroom

You have developed skills in communicating complex ideas. Consider writing an opinion piece, giving a talk on or off campus, or hosting a student club meeting on a topic of interest.



Get familiar with SEP

Visit the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophers to read about philosophers and topics of interest.



AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR!

Clark's philosophy major is designed to help you examine the deepest questions.

As a philosophy major, you are encouraged to conduct research, whether as part of a course, an internship, or independent study. Eligible students may apply to the department's honors program and complete a thesis under the direction of a faculty member. Our faculty are scholars in a range of philosophy subfields, including social and political philosophy, the philosophy of culture, philosophy of science, environmental ethics, biomedical ethics, metaphysics, philosophy of religion and more.

CONNECT WITH US!

Beck House

11 Loudon Street

Worcester, MA 01610

<https://www.clarku.edu/departments/philosophy/>

Advising

We support your academic and personal journey.

You will be assigned an adviser in your first year to help you select your courses and program. Once you declare your major, philosophy faculty will advise you.

CLARK
UNIVERSITY



Challenge Convention.
Change Our World.

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