

## THE FIELD

Whatever your career aspirations, the study of philosophy can help strengthen your preparation by developing your capacity to think and reason well, and to deal critically and analytically with the concepts, problems, and methodologies central to your chosen profession. The study of philosophy not only equips you with skills for a trade or profession, it also equips you with important skills for living, day by day, with and for yourself and others.

The range of topics in philosophy is broad, encompassing values, knowledge, reality, religion, science, language, society, and more. The core fields are logic, ethics, metaphysics, and the theory of knowledge. There are also many specialized fields, such as philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, philosophy of language, philosophy of art, philosophy of religion, and social-political philosophy. In addition, students may study particular historical periods—for example, ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, and early modern philosophy.

## THE MAJOR

Students who major in philosophy must complete at least 10 courses (3+ credits each) in philosophy. These include one course in logic, one course in value theory, two courses in the history of philosophy, and two courses in metaphysics and epistemology, as well as the Junior Year Writing requirement and the Integrative Experience requirement.

## THE MINOR

Students who minor in philosophy must complete at least five courses (three or more credits each) in philosophy, at least three of which must be 300-level or above.

## HONORS

For the departmental honors program, in addition to the major requirements, a student must maintain a high GPA and write an honors thesis. For details, consult the departmental honors coordinator.

## STUDY ABROAD

Students are encouraged to consider spending one or two semesters studying abroad. Study abroad offers a valuable opportunity to enrich oneself and gain perspective on the field of philosophy. Students should contact the International Programs Office (413- 545-2710, [umass.edu/ipo](http://umass.edu/ipo)) and work closely with their academic advisor to choose the appropriate courses in preparation.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Almost all professional philosophers are professors at colleges and universities. To prepare for this, students must do graduate work toward a PhD in philosophy. But a philosophy major is also excellent preparation for professional schools (law, medicine, etc.) that emphasize clear thinking and analytical ability.

## COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

The humanities focus on human creativity, endeavor, and culture. The imaginative and creative arts—literary and performing—derive from life and teach about human behavior and constructs of social reality. The history of social, political, and economic systems illuminates and shapes the present and the future. Students in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts are expected to broaden their perspectives on individual and cultural expression within their own and other societies, to understand the development and evolution of the discipline of study in relation to the culture from which it emanates, and to learn the methods by which knowledge in the discipline is gained.

Office: E302 South College

Phone: 413-545-2330

Website: [umass.edu/philosophy](http://umass.edu/philosophy)