



DEPARTMENT of PHILOSOPHY

Undergraduate Handbook

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Questions?

Contact the Undergraduate Program Director,
Dr. Brandon Morgan-Olsen
bmorganolsen@luc.edu

BA in Philosophy

What can I do with a BA in Philosophy?

Majoring in philosophy helps students prepare for future careers by teaching them valuable intellectual skills, including how to:

- **Think rigorously**
- **Express ideas clearly and logically**
- **Understand and evaluate conflicting points of view**
- **Reason in a careful way**

Philosophy raises fundamental questions about ourselves and the world, which result in a sharpened perception of the value of our lives and an increased ability of analysis. Such critical ability enables students to better understand the world around them; to evaluate the values and social forms by which we live; to ask which values should have priority and why; to make judgments about how various social structures realize, or fail to realize, these values.

In addition to offering extensive courses on philosophical thought, the Philosophy Department supports the career interests of its students, offering courses in logic, medical ethics, business ethics, philosophy of law, various courses in social philosophy, philosophy of science, and philosophy of religion.

Career opportunities for philosophy majors include:

- **Academics**
- **Law**
- **Business**
- **Public Administration**
- **Journalism**
- **Healthcare**
- **And more!**

Some students go on to teach philosophy; others recognize it as excellent preparation for law school. Philosophy provides a valuable foundation for careers in communication, public administration and policy making by teaching the student how to identify and examine the underlying questions of values and methodology implied in every practical decision. The American Philosophical Association has an informative statement on Career Opportunities with a Philosophy Major.

BA in Philosophy

What can I do with a BA in Philosophy?

Philosophy majors go on to have very successful careers:



Data ©2015, payscale.com. Chart ©2015, philosophy@uno.edu.

Philosophy majors have the **highest** starting salary of all Humanities majors, and their salaries increase more than any other Humanities major by mid-career.¹

Philosophy majors have **higher** mid-career salaries than those who major in:²

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| -Accounting | -Communication |
| -Political Science | -Biology |
| -Nursing | -Journalism |
| -Psychology | -Advertising |

¹ https://www.apaonline.org/resource/resmgr/data_on_profession/philosophy_majors_after_coll.pdf

² <https://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/majors-that-pay-you-back/bachelors>

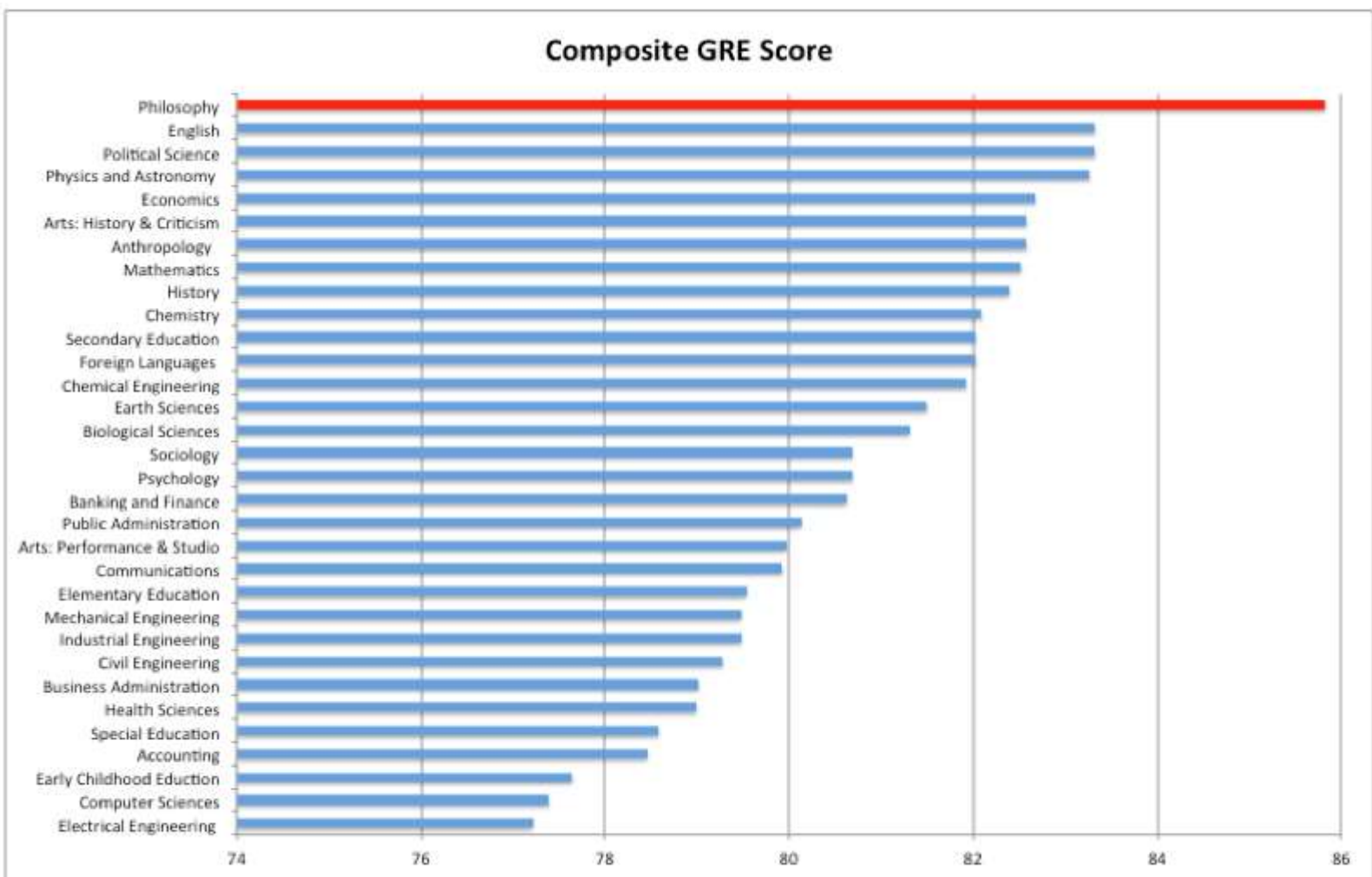
BA in Philosophy

What can I do with a BA in Philosophy?

If you would like to pursue a graduate degree (for example, JD, MBA, or PhD), you will have to apply to graduate programs. Most graduate programs will require you to take a standardized exam (GRE, LSAT, or GMAT) and report your score to them in your application.

Philosophy majors do remarkably well on these exams.

GRE (Required by most graduate programs)



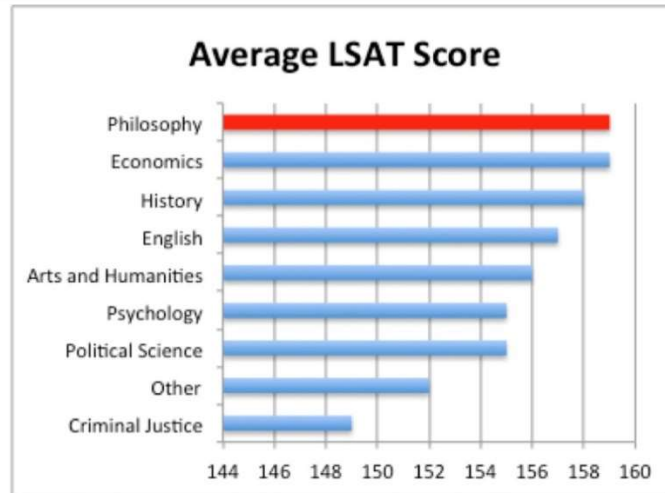
Data ©2014, Educational Testing Service, based on college graduates who tested between August 1, 2011 - April 30, 2014.

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BA in Philosophy

What can I do with a BA in Philosophy?

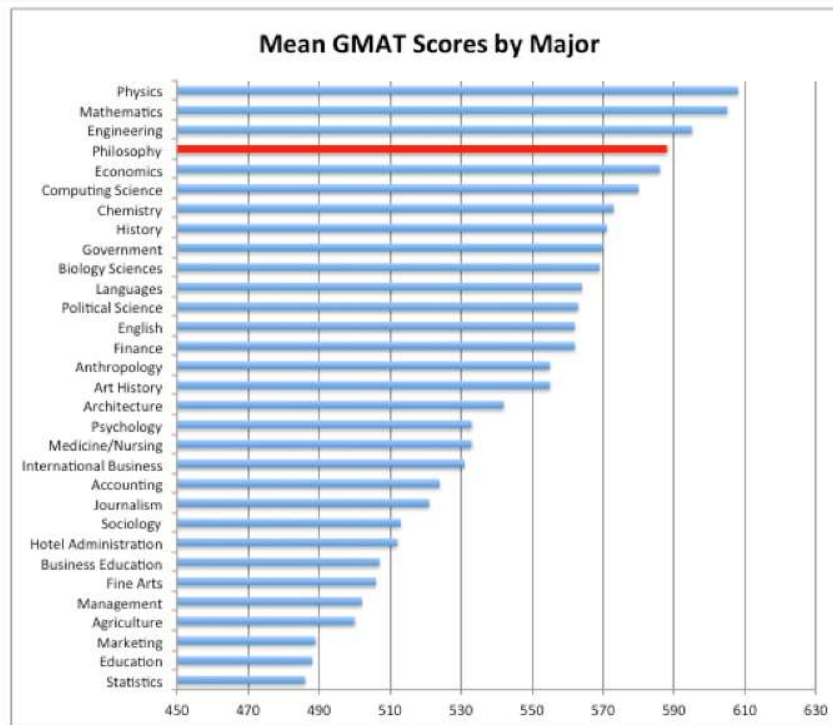
LSAT (Required by most law schools)



Data ©2014, Law School Admission Council, Inc., based on >1000 test takers.

Chart ©2015, philosophy@uno.edu.

GMAT (Required by most business schools and MBA programs)



Data ©2014, Profile of GMAT Candidates, 2007-2012. Chart ©2015, philosophy@uno.edu.

BA in Philosophy

What about Philosophy as a second major?

This can be a great idea. Your first major likely raises questions about values or methodology that philosophy can explore; so philosophy can deepen and broaden your training in your first major. It can also enhance your intellectual skills—to question, to think seriously, and to speak clearly. So, a second major in philosophy can better prepare you for a profession in your first field or for graduate school.

Degree Requirements

All majors must take at least eleven (11) courses in philosophy. Seven of these courses must be at the 300-level (eight, if 301 is taken). Note that 300-level courses have a prerequisite of two philosophy courses. Each student's major program must include:

- One lower-level philosophy course from the ethics group: 181, 182, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, or a 300-level equivalent
- One course from the metaphysics/epistemology group: 130, 271, 272, 273, 275, 276, 277, 279, or a 300-level equivalent
- One course in formal logic: 274 or 301
- One course in ancient philosophy: 304
- One course in classical modern philosophy: 309
- One philosophy capstone seminar: 395–399
- Five other elective philosophy courses, of which at least four must be at the 300-level

Note that Philosophy majors are exempt from the general LUC PHIL 130 CORE requirement.

Philosophy Learning Outcomes

Philosophy majors from Loyola University Chicago are expected to demonstrate progress in three areas of philosophical knowledge – 1) the history of philosophy; 2) moral philosophy and related areas; and 3) in the perennial philosophical problems related to knowledge and reality – as well as 4) progress towards the mastery of philosophical methods and modes of expression.

1. In the history of philosophy, students should ...

- Demonstrate a general familiarity with major figures, schools and debates ranging from ancient Greece through the 20th century.
- Be able to recognize the significance of historical philosophy to ongoing philosophical debates and contemporary issues.
- Be able to recognize and appreciate the diversity of philosophical methodology across history.
- Be able to apply insights drawn from their study of the history of philosophy to ongoing philosophical debates.

2. In moral philosophy, students should ...

- Demonstrate a general familiarity with the major theories of normative ethics.
- Be able to explain the issues at stake in some of the standard meta-ethical disputes in philosophy, for example moral relativism and other issues related to the objectivity of morality.
- Be able to apply such philosophical theories to analyze a range of moral issues from the individual to the social and political.

Philosophy Learning Outcomes

3. Regarding perennial philosophical problems, students should ...

- Demonstrate a general familiarity with classical philosophical problems related to the nature of knowledge; the relationship between other varieties of inquiry, especially natural science, and philosophical wisdom; the nature of reality; the nature and existence of God; and the nature of human persons.
- Explain the significance of these problems and the arguments for and against various proposed responses to them.
- Be able to apply this understanding to construct and defend their own positions on at least some of these issues.

4. Regarding philosophical methodology, students should be able to...

- Interpret philosophical texts, and especially be able to recognize and isolate central philosophical claims and the reasons offered in their defense.
- Recognize and evaluate the structure of a philosophical argument.
- Construct and articulate philosophical claims of their own, including the use of other philosophical work to clarify that claim and place it into appropriate context.
- Defend a philosophical claim, both orally and in writing, demonstrating especially a self-critical awareness of the weaknesses of one's own position and the value of rigorous argument and clarity of expression.

Philosophy Degree Specializations

The philosophy major is extremely customizable and easily suited to your goals. Of the 11 courses required for the major, only 3 are fixed: Logic (274), Ancient Philosophy (304), and Classical Modern Philosophy (309). Beyond that, you have flexibility to chart your own course. You can also choose to specialize in one of four areas:

Specializations

- **ETHICS & VALUES**
- **LAW, SOCIETY, & SOCIAL JUSTICE**
- **MIND & SCIENCE**
- **EXISTENCE, MEANING, & CULTURE**

The Law, Society, and Social Justice specialization will eventually replace the existing BA in Philosophy with Social Justice Emphasis. However, you can still currently enroll in the Social Justice Emphasis major, if you would like.

In order to declare a Philosophy Major Specialization, or if you have any questions, please contact the Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director (Brandon Morgan-Olsen) at bmorganolsen@luc.edu.

Philosophy Degree Specializations

ETHICS & VALUES (E&V)

Courses in the E&V specialization focus on ethical and moral issues, investigating how meaning, value, and moral responsibility operate to constitute an ethical human life. E&V courses each address some of the following topics: *meta* questions about value, the status of moral judgments, the nature of freedom, etc.; *normative* questions that encompass personal ethical choices, how individuals and groups should live together in a society, or ways to make ethical judgments; and *applied* questions about, for example, health care, education, or the environment. Potential topics include: Is moral value culturally relative? What makes something good? What is a good human life? Should voluntary euthanasia be legalized? What obligations does each person have, both to themselves and each other? Here concerns about moral rights, needs, capabilities, and character often play a role in deciding how we should go about making choices, especially when other people's interests are involved.

E&V Requirements

- (1) Ethics: **181 (suggested)**, 182, 284, 287, 288, or a 300-level equivalent
- (1) Metaphysics/Epistemology: 130, 271, 272, 273, 275, 276, 277, 279, or a 300-level equivalent
- (3) 300-level E&V electives, e.g., 310, 321, 324, 388
- (1) Any 300-level philosophy course
- (1) Any level philosophy course
- (1) E&V capstone seminar
- 274, 304, and 309

Philosophy Degree Specializations

LAW, SOCIETY, & SOCIAL JUSTICE (LSSJ)

Courses in the LSSJ specialization focus on questions of justice—which is to say questions of how we should best live together, structure our societies, and justify our systems of law— developing the ability to critically examine our existing communities, societies, and laws. Students with an LSSJ specialization gain a solid understanding of the philosophical foundations of law, politics, and governance, as well as insight into theories of social justice, economic justice, racial justice, gender justice, environmental justice, etc. LSSJ specialists are thus well-equipped to pursue advanced study of these questions (for example, in law school), to engage in socio-political critique, and/or to strive for positive social and political change.

LSSJ Requirements

- (1) Ethics: 181, **182 (suggested)**, 284, 287, 288, or a 300-level equivalent
- (1) Metaphysics/Epistemology: 130, 271, 272, 273, 275, 276, 277, 279, or a 300-level equivalent
- (3) 300-level LSSJ electives: e.g., 321, 323, 326, 327
- (1) Any 300-level philosophy course
- (1) Any level philosophy course
- (1) LSSJ capstone seminar
- 274, 304, and 309

Philosophy Degree Specializations

MIND & SCIENCE (M&S)

Courses in the M&S specialization focus on topics in epistemology (the study of knowledge) and metaphysics (the study of reality and first principles), with a particular emphasis on philosophy of science and the philosophy of mind. Topics in epistemology include the nature of justification, certainty, belief, truth, and good reasoning; the nature of scientific inquiry; the roles of values in science; and decolonizing knowledge. Metaphysics covers issues that lie at the foundation of other disciplines, including the nature or existence of reality, soul, body, mind, God, freedom, and human persons. Addressing both historical and contemporary approaches to these topics, an M&S specialization complements further study in the fields of neuroscience, psychology, biology, physics, chemistry, medicine, mathematics, and other related disciplines.

M&S Requirements

- (1) Ethics: 181, 182, 284, 287, 288, or a 300-level equivalent
- (1) Philosophy of Science (273) or Philosophy of Mind (276)
- (3) 300-level M&S electives: e.g., 311, 325, 330, 333, 355, 369, 381, 382, 383
- (1) Any 300-level philosophy course
- (1) Any level philosophy course
- (1) M&S capstone seminar
- 274, 304, and 309

Philosophy Degree Specializations

EXISTENCE, MEANING, & CULTURE (EMC)

Courses in the EMC specialization ask about how we find meaning, both as individuals and as parts of communities and cultures that precede and might outlast us. What does it mean to be a person? What is it like to be a person? How do we respond to, critique, and carry on the past? EMC courses are broadly conversant with and build upon 19th and 20th century European philosophy, focusing on issues in phenomenology (the study of experience), hermeneutics (the study of interpretation), existentialism, philosophical anthropology, feminist philosophy, gender theory, critical race theory, and aesthetics. Topics in these areas intersect with, but are not reducible to, issues in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Specific approaches may be historical and/or conceptual, analytic and/or continental, intradisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary.

EMC Requirements

- (1) Ethics: 181, 182, 284, 287, 288, or a 300-level equivalent
- (1) Metaphysics/Epistemology: 130, 271, 272, 273, 275, 276, 277, 279, or a 300-level equivalent
- (3) 300-level EMC electives: e.g., 318, 319, 326, 327, 360
- (1) Any 300-level philosophy course
- (1) Any level philosophy course
- (1) EMC capstone seminar
- 274, 304, and 309

Recommended Course Schedule

All majors must take at least eleven (11) courses in philosophy. Seven of these courses must be at the 300-level (eight if 301 is taken). Note that 300-level courses have a prerequisite of two philosophy courses and Capstone Seminars have a prerequisite of five philosophy courses.

Year One (2 Courses)

- Ethics Requirement: 181, 182, 284, 286, 287, 288, or a 300-level equivalent
- Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement: 130, 271, 272, 273, 275, 276, 277, 279, or a 300-level equivalent

Year Two (3 Courses)

- Formal Logic Requirement: 274 or 301
- Ancient Philosophy Requirement: 304
- Classical Modern Phil. Requirement: 309

Year Three (3 Courses)

- Any-Level Elective
- 300-level Elective
- 300-level Elective

Year Four (3 Courses)

- 300-level Elective
- 300-level Elective
- Capstone Seminar Requirement: 395-399

Major Tracking

_____ Ethics

Course number: _____

_____ Metaphysics/ Epistemology

Course number: _____

_____ Formal Logic

Course number: _____

_____ Ancient Philosophy

Course number: _____

_____ Classical Modern Philosophy

Course number: _____

_____ Capstone Seminar

Course number: _____

_____ Any-Level Elective

Course number: _____

_____ (4) 300-Level Electives

Course number: _____

Course number: _____

Course number: _____

Course number: _____

Honors in Philosophy

REQUIREMENTS AND STEPS

1. Be a philosophy major and have a GPA of at least 3.5 in Philosophy
2. Write and Honors Thesis and pass an Oral Defense on the thesis
3. Take one extra upper-level Philosophy course

Start by contacting the Undergraduate Program, Dr. Brandon Morgan-Olsen, at bmorganolsen@luc.edu. A student pursuing honors in philosophy chooses a topic to research and selects a faculty member who agrees to supervise the student's work on the thesis. The Honors Advisor sets up a committee for the oral defense consisting of the faculty member who supervised the thesis and two additional faculty members.

The student may develop the thesis from an earlier paper written for a philosophy course. Also, the student may take the required extra philosophy course as a directed readings course with his or her faculty supervisor.

A draft of the thesis must be completed early enough in the semester that the faculty supervisor can make comments for possible revision. The other members of the defense committee may offer feedback if they wish.

When the thesis is completed, an oral defense of the thesis is scheduled, usually by the student and his or her faculty supervisor. The three faculty members participating in the oral defense then vote on whether the student has passed the defense.

Honors in Philosophy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Do I need to be a member of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program in order to graduate with honors in philosophy?

Answer: No. The two programs are completely independent of each other.

2. When do I need to sign up or declare that I want to graduate with honors in philosophy?

Answer: For a student graduating in the spring, it is a good idea to start the process sometime in the fall semester of one's final year in order to allow ample time to get things done. However, a student may sign up as late as the first few weeks of the spring semester.

3. How do I sign up?

Answer: Contact the Undergraduate Program Director in the Philosophy Department, Dr. Brandon Morgan-Olsen, bmorganolsen@luc.edu.

4. How long does the honors thesis need to be?

Answer: There is no set page minimum or maximum. The thesis should be a substantial paper. A student's faculty supervisor will help the student determine what is required in her or his chosen area of study.

5. Do I need to write the thesis "from scratch"?

Answer: No. Doing so is permitted, but students often start with a paper they have written for a philosophy class and revise, expand, deepen, and develop it into a bigger, better paper.

Honors in Philosophy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

6. Do the above deadlines mean that I can submit my thesis during finals week?

Answer: No. The normal procedure is for a student to submit a draft of the thesis to the supervising faculty member (or to all three faculty members on the defense committee, if they are willing) of the student's thesis. The faculty supervisor (and perhaps the other faculty on the defense committee) critique the paper and return it to the student for revisions. The revised version of the thesis is then given to all three members of the committee approximately one week before the scheduled defense of the thesis. As a general rule, the student should expect to submit a draft by the tenth week of classes.

7. Who decides if the honors thesis and oral defense satisfy the requirements?

Answer: That determination is made by the three faculty members who take part in the student's oral defense of the thesis.

8. How long is the oral defense?

Answer: There is no required time limit, but typically the defense lasts between one and two hours. Usually, the student begins by summarizing the thesis (this might take 5–10 minutes) and then the faculty members ask the student questions about the thesis (or the research for it, or its applications) for about an hour. The student then leaves the room while the faculty members decide whether the student passed. The defense is not so much an examination as it is a discussion.

Honors in Philosophy

THE HONORS THESIS

The Honors Thesis is more than a paper written for a class. In general, it is longer, better developed, and more sophisticated. It should be similar to a paper written by a first year graduate student.

Minimally, the Honors Thesis must be a good philosophy paper, although we expect that a major working at honors will aim to make their thesis even better than that. The descriptions below indicate what to aim for and also what sort of work falls short of being even good.

Good

- The thesis statement is clear and fully articulated
- The paper presents a well-reasoned argument without important steps in the argument being left out or difficult to find
- The reasons/premises are stated and relevant
- The reasons/premises support the argument, even if the reasons why they support the conclusions are not fully or clearly articulated
- The paper notes that there are counterarguments to its thesis and indicates how they might be responded to
- The paper uses textual references that contribute to its argument or its discussion of counterarguments
- The paper accurately interprets the texts it uses
- The paper offers some critical evaluation of its own thesis and/or arguments and/or of the counterarguments it identifies

For more information contact the Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director, Dr. Brandon Morgan-Olsen, at bmorganolsen@luc.edu.

Honors in Philosophy

THE HONORS THESIS

Outstanding

- The thesis statement is clearly and fully articulated
- The paper presents a clearly structured argument that is complete and easy to follow
- The reasons/premises are stated clearly and are relevant and internally coherent
- The reasons/premises directly support the argument and the explanation makes it clear why this is so
- The paper acknowledges and explicitly responds to counterarguments with sophistication
- The paper uses appropriate textual references whose presence is clearly helpful and explicitly explained
- The paper uses an accurate and insightful interpretation of the texts it uses
- The paper offers a thoughtful and persuasive critical evaluation of the various positions and arguments presented

Less than Adequate

- There is a thesis that is evident, but it is not clear and/or is not easy to find
- Argumentation is present, but is incomplete and/or its elements are difficult to find
- The reasons/premises of the argument are evident, but are incompletely or unclearly stated
- The reasons/premises lend support for the conclusions, but the conclusions do not follow unless other reasons/premises are assumed which are not stated and/or the relation between the stated reasons and their conclusions is not explained
- Some obvious counterarguments are noted, but others are missed and/or possible responses to those that are mentioned are absent
- Textual references are made but they are either not necessarily appropriate or their connection to the reasoning in the paper is unclear
- The interpretation of the texts that are used is fairly accurate and does not force the texts to fit a certain role in the paper
- The paper shows a few signs of critical evaluation regarding the various positions and arguments presented, but it is spotty and incomplete in this respect

Minor in Philosophy

Why should I minor in Philosophy?

In every major area of study there are questions about values or methodology that philosophy can explore. So, philosophy can deepen your understanding of your major field of study. In addition, philosophy trains a person to think rigorously about fundamental questions—to express ideas clearly and logically—to understand and evaluate conflicting points of view—to reason in a careful way. These intellectual skills are useful in almost any career. And of course, like every minor, philosophy is an area of knowledge that has its own intrinsic value.

The Philosophy Department offers three minors in philosophy:

The Three Philosophy Minors

- **GENERAL PHILOSOPHY MINOR,**
with different possible suggested sequences, described on pages 22-23
- **BIOETHICS MINOR**
- **ETHICS AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY MINOR**

Please contact our Undergraduate Program Director, Dr. Brandon Morgan-Olsen, at bmorganolsen@luc.edu with any questions!

Requirements for a Minor in Philosophy

All minors must take at least six courses in philosophy, at least two of these being 300-level courses. Each student's minor program must include:

- One lower-level philosophy course from the ethics group (181, 182, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288 or 289)
- One lower-level philosophy course from the metaphysics/epistemology group (130, 71, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277 or 279)
- Two elective philosophy courses at any level (e.g., another core course from either Tier 1 or Tier 2, or a 300-level course)
- Two elective philosophy courses at the 300-level.

Minor in Philosophy

You can design a program to fit your own needs. If you plan a law career, for example, you would likely want to emphasize areas like reasoning, evidence and political theory. Academic counselors can help you design a program. What follows are some suggested sequences for students preparing for careers in law, business, medicine, or religion. Of course, the general requirements stated above must be incorporated in these suggested sequences.

Suggested Minor Sequence in Pre-Law

- Ethics (181)
- Logic (274)
- Social Political Philosophy (182)
- Theory of Knowledge (275 or 330)
- One from among Philosophy of Law (323), Political Philosophy (326 or 327), or Marxism (375)
- One additional 300-level course

Suggested Minor Sequence in Pre-Business

- Ethics (181) or Social Political Philosophy (182)
- Logic (274) or Knowledge (275)
- Business Ethics (285)
- One from among: Philosophy of Law (323), Social Political Philosophy (321, 326 or 327), Marxism (375)
- One additional 300-level course

Minor in Philosophy

Suggested Minor Sequence in Pre-Health

- Ethics (181)
- Social Political Philosophy (182)
- Philosophy of Science (273 or 381)
- Medical Ethics (284)
- Two 300-level electives. Recommended electives include: Ethics & Society (321), Philosophy of Medicine (369) or Philosophy of Religion (380)

Suggested Minor Sequence in Religion

- Ethics (181)
- Philosophy of Religion (271)
- Medieval Philosophy (305) or St. Thomas Aquinas (340)
- Topics in Philosophy of Religion (380)
- One additional 300-level course. Suggested courses include: Issues in Human Nature (310) and Problems in the Philosophy of God (312)

Bioethics Minor

The interdisciplinary minor in bioethics encompasses work in the fields of biology, natural science, philosophy, sociology and theology. It enables students to study topics in which the life sciences and ethics converge, such as: biological and chemical weapons, human stem cell research, global warming, human and animal experimentation, pollution, genetic screening and gene therapy, and human population growth.

The bioethics minor helps to prepare students for a range of future careers, or for advanced study in ministry, the health professions, the sciences, teaching, law, journalism, research, government or social work. For many students, the study of bioethics not only deepens their understanding of science and its impact on our lives, but also strengthens their ability to think broadly and critically, and to better see the vital integration of science and technology with individuals and the world around us.

Why study bioethics?

Bioethics, which examines the ethical implications of science, addresses many of the issues that have—or will have—a major impact on individuals and on our society. Some of the many important questions raised by bioethicists include:

- Who should be screened for genetic diseases, and how should we make use of the genetic information we collect?
- What are the biological and philosophical underpinnings of our conceptions of race, gender, and sexual orientation, and how should we use these concepts?
- Can an understanding of issues such as global warming, pollution, and habitat destruction help us to understand the relationship between human beings and the natural world?

Bioethics Club

Please visit <https://luc.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/luc-bioethics-club> for information about our Bioethics Club at LUC. You can also email us at lucbioethicsclub@gmail.com for more details if you are interested!

Bioethics Minor

Upon completion of the program, students will:

- Understand relevant scientific concepts, techniques, and methods as they relate to bioethical topics
- Recognize bioethical issues
- Apply ethical reasoning and ethical judgment (concepts, theories, methods) to discuss bioethical issues
- Integrate science and ethics such that students can take a bioethical topic or issue and connect the scientific with the ethical issues.

Requirements

The minor in bioethics requires at least seven courses completed with a grade of “C” or better. The science requirement is satisfied by four courses in biology or three courses in the natural sciences. The ethics requirement is satisfied by completing three courses in philosophy, theology, sociology, psychology, or health systems management. Finally, one interdisciplinary course is required (BIET 395: Special Topics). See below for detailed information about which specific courses satisfy these requirements. Students also must officially declare the minor by going on LOCUS to add the bioethics minor.

Please note that one of the three ethics courses must be taken at the 300-level. This means that in addition to BIET 395 one of the three ethics courses must be a 300-level course.

Science Requirement

- Either all (4) of: BIOL 101, BIOL 111, BIOL 102, BIOL 112
- Or (3) of: ANTH 101, ANTH 103, ANTH 104, ENVS 204, ENVS 273, ENVS 281, ENVS 282, NTSC 103, NTSC 109

Ethics Requirement

- PHIL 284
- (2) of PHIL 264, PHIL 287, PHIL 325, PHIL 369, PHIL 398, THEO 182, THEO 184, THEO 342, THEO 343, THEO 344, HSM 110, HSM 210, HSM 220, HSM 203, PSYC 235, PSYC 238, PSYC 349, PSYC 373, SOCL 225, SOCL 272 (at least one of these must be at the 300-level)

Interdisciplinary Requirement

- BIET 395

Please visit luc.edu/bioethics for more information on how to customize the bioethics minor!

Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy

Ethics is a central area of human concern and human inquiry. A special concern with ethics and human values is one of the things that defines Loyola University Chicago and the Jesuit Tradition. Philosophy and philosophical treatments of ethics and ethical theory are foundational for the critical discussion of ethical issues in other fields. The Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy can prove to be a significant credential for some students, both for finding employment and for admission to graduate or professional school, as there is increasing attention to the study of ethics in professional schools.

Requirements

For this minor a student must take six courses in ethics. At least four of these six courses must be taken from the Philosophy Department, and at least two of them must be at the 300-level.

As many as two ethics courses can be taken outside of the Philosophy Department. Philosophy Majors cannot receive the Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy.

Note that, in addition to the courses listed on the following page, individual sections of courses that are not on this list but which are taught as ethics classes can count towards the minor on a case by case basis. For example, some sections of topics courses, such as Phil 389 and Phil 398, can count towards the minor, provided such courses are ethics courses.

Also, two or more sections of one topics in ethics course, such as Phil 324, can count towards the minor, if those sections are different ethics courses.

Note also that a student can incorporate the courses taken for the Core Curriculum into this minor, in such a way that only some additional courses are needed to complete this minor. For example, a student can take two Core philosophy area courses in ethics and one Core theology area course in ethics. That student would then take three additional ethics courses (of which two are from Philosophy at the 300-level) in order to receive the Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy. This feature can be useful in planning the courses for one's minor.

For more information about this minor program, contact the Philosophy Undergraduate Program Director, Brandon Morgan-Olsen.

Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy

Course Offerings

All sections of any the following courses count for the Minor in Ethics and Moral Philosophy:

- Communication 217: Ethics and Communication
- Criminal Justice 350: Philosophical Foundations of Criminal Justice
- Philosophy 181: Ethics
- Philosophy 182: Social and Political Philosophy
- Philosophy 284: Health Care Ethics
- Philosophy 285: Business Ethics
- Philosophy 286: Ethics and Education
- Philosophy 288: Culture and Civilization
- Philosophy 289: Philosophy and Gender
- Philosophy 321: Ethics and Society
- Philosophy 323: Philosophy of Law
- Philosophy 324: Topics in Ethics
- Philosophy 369: Philosophy of Medicine
- Philosophy 385: Environmental Ethics
- Philosophy 388: History of Ethics
- Political Science 341: Political Ethics and Public Service
- Theology 192: Moral Problems
- Theology 194: Social and Economic Christian Thought
- Theology 340: Foundations of Christian Morality
- Theology 342: Perspectives on Life and Death
- Theology 344: Theology and Ecology

Five-Year BA/MA in Philosophy

The BA/MA in Philosophy program allows students to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy in five years. A student enrolled in this program is an undergraduate for four years and completes the eleven courses required for the philosophy major. Two of these courses are allowed to “double-count,” to count for both the BA and the MA. Two additional graduate courses must be taken while the student is still an undergraduate, above and beyond the 120 hours needed for the BA. In the fifth year, as a graduate student, the student takes the remaining six graduate courses and defends a master's paper.

Admission Requirements

- Junior philosophy major
- Overall GPA of 3.3 or higher
- GPA of 3.5 or higher in philosophy (with at least 5 completed courses, 3 at the 300 level)
- Apply by March 15th of junior year

Application

Submit a transcript, a writing sample, a one-page statement of purpose, and three letters of recommendation from full-time Loyola philosophy faculty members to Dr. Joseph Vukov, Graduate Program Director, at jvukov@luc.edu.

Questions?

Contact the Undergraduate Program Director,
Dr. Brandon Morgan-Olsen
bmorganolsen@luc.edu

or

Contact the Graduate Program Director
Dr. Joseph Vukov
jvukov@luc.edu

Five-Year BA/MA in Philosophy

Years 1-4, as an Undergraduate Student

1. Complete BA in Philosophy. Note that 7 of the 11 courses must be at the 300 level (8, if 301 is taken). See page 7 for more details about the Philosophy BA.

- 1 course from the ethics group
- 1 course from the epistemology group
- Logic
- Ancient Philosophy
- Modern Philosophy
- Capstone Seminar [double counts for the MA]
- Elective (any number)
- Elective (300 level) [double counts for the MA]
- 3 more electives (300 level)

2. Take 2 additional courses towards the MA in Philosophy

- One must be a 400 level course, the other can be 300 or 400 level

Year 5, as a Graduate Student

1. Take 6 graduate courses to complete the MA in Philosophy and defend the MA thesis or paper. The 6 graduate courses—plus the 2 courses taken towards the MA as an undergraduate student and the 2 courses that double-count—complete the 10 courses required for the MA. The courses must also satisfy these distribution areas:

- Ancient philosophy
- Medieval philosophy
- Modern philosophy
- Continental philosophy
- Analytic philosophy
- 5 electives

2. The MA thesis or paper: Write and successfully defend a research paper before a committee of three faculty members.

Academic Advising

Students pursuing a major or minor in philosophy are encouraged to plan their selection of courses with the Philosophy Undergraduate Director, or with their designated advisor, each semester prior to registration.

Double-Dipping Policy

1. Students may not major and minor in the same discipline.
2. Majors: Not less than 21 credit hours in the individual student's transcript must be unique to each major; that is, the courses in question are considered as actually fulfilling requirements of one major, not of more than one major.
3. Minors and interdisciplinary minors: Not less than 8 credit hours in the individual student's transcript must be unique to each minor; that is, the courses in question are considered as actually fulfilling requirements of one minor, not of more than one minor or major.

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)

About Minorities and Philosophy

MAP's mission is to address structural injustices in academic philosophy and to remove barriers that impede participation in academic philosophy for members of marginalized groups. Through our international organizing team and graduate student-led network of autonomous chapters around the world, we aim to examine and dismantle mechanisms that prevent students from marginalized groups from participating in academic philosophy, as well as to promote philosophical work done from marginalized perspectives, and help improve working conditions for scholars from marginalized backgrounds. See more about MAP International at MapfortheGap.com.

For more information, email graduate student organizer Rene Ramires (rramirez12@luc.edu)

Join MAP!

Now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 year!
Applications are accepted year-round on a rolling basis.

Loyola Philosophy students have started a chapter of Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)! As part of our MAP chapter, we have developed a program for students from marginalized and underrepresented groups in philosophy. Undergraduate students in the program will be connected with graduate students, faculty, and undergraduate peers! The program provides mentorship, assistance in navigating the university and philosophical discipline, and the opportunity to participate in MAP programming and events such as talks, screenings, Virtual MAP Lounge, and more.

MAP understands "underrepresented groups" to include BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, disabled/different abled folks, and women. This is a year-long program. You can be of any major or minor (not only philosophy)!

To apply to the program, please find the application form on our website:

<http://bit.ly/LoyolaMAP>

Other Undergraduate Philosophy Opportunities

Philosophy at the Rome Center

Students find a special home at Loyola's John Felice Rome Center. The Rome Center is a beautiful villa located on Monte Mario, about twenty minutes from the center of the city. It consists of classrooms, a library, a residence hall, a computer center, a chapel, recreation rooms, administrative offices, a dining facility, and a coffee bar on a spacious landscaped campus. The center of Rome, the ancient Forum and Colosseum, the Vatican and the train station are all a short bus or metro ride from the campus.

Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society

Loyola has a Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau (Alpha of Illinois), an International Honor Society in Philosophy. The purpose of the organization is to:

- Function as a student organization.
- Recognize and honor student achievement in philosophy.
- Promote ties between the Loyola Philosophy students and faculty.
- Promote ties between Loyola Philosophy students and philosophy students at other universities.
- Promote interest in philosophy within the Loyola student body.
- Promote philosophical discussion and debate within the Loyola student body.

Membership Criteria

- Completed two semesters, four quarters or the equivalent, of college
- An overall Loyola GPA of 3.4 or higher
- Completed at least two philosophy courses with a mean overall grade which is higher than the second highest grade on the grading scale. The GPA in philosophy courses must be higher than 3.67
- You will need to bring an up to date copy of your Loyola transcript to demonstrate your eligibility for membership
- Students will need to pay a one time initiation fee to the National Office of Phi Sigma Tau (as of 2012, the initiation fee is \$25)

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Brandon Morgan-Olsen (bmorganolsen@luc.edu)

Undergraduate Testimonials

What drew you to philosophy?

"Philosophy was the first class that I took where I wasn't challenged to memorize information but I was challenged to actually think. After that class I started reading Ancient Greek philosophy. At first I was just intrigued, but that quickly turned into a full blown addiction."

"I took an introductory class my freshman year with Dr. Bergeron, this experience pushed me to take on a minor in Philosophy. I then took Philosophy of Science with Dr. Harrington and this pushed me to become a major and ultimately pursue philosophy in Graduate School for the next year."

Who is your favorite philosopher or what is your favorite philosophical work and why?

"Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica because of how thoroughly he moves through philosophy, and connects it to the Catholic faith."

"Plato, I fell in love with Plato from the first time I read the Republic because I was shocked that women were included in his egalitarian society. This immediately peaked my interest and I started reading his other works. I became addicted to his dialectic style and specifically the Socratic method. I actually wrote my honors thesis on the relationship between medicine and philosophy in Plato's works."

What is one example of the way you use philosophy in your everyday life?

"It changes the way you think and observe the world around you, you think differently about problems and interactions. So, it is hard to give one example of an instance where I use philosophy in my daily life. I have been forever changed by my philosophical education, I would not be who I am today without it. I guess a better answer might be that everything I do and say are examples of how I use philosophy in my daily life."

"Every time I read the news. Also, in how I apply my own ethical principles to my own life."

Undergraduate Testimonials

What is one challenge you experienced as a philosophy major or in your philosophy classes, and how did you overcome it?

"A challenge that I experienced was, early on in my education I was heavily involved in the hard sciences, physics and biology, this didn't allow me to develop my writing skills adequately enough for writing philosophy papers. I then took multiple philosophy writing intensive classes, with Dr. Harrington and then Dr. Scott. The experiences with these two wonderful professors greatly increased both my ability and my confidence in my academic writing ability. Now I have publications in undergraduate philosophy journals because of their help and some academic growth on my part."

How do you see your education in philosophy helping you succeed beyond college?

"Philosophy has taught me how to think. As a future lawyer this is an invaluable lesson. I have learned to think critically and write successful argument papers. These are invaluable lessons that will strengthen my future law career."

"As part of my future Priestly Formation, I will be required to learn Theology. The background for all Theology is good and solid Philosophy."

"I believe that the skills philosophy provides are very practical. Although not all knowledge gained is practical, the skills for comprehending, writing, and analyzing are helpful no matter the career I choose to pursue."

Undergraduate Testimonials

What advice would you give a first-year student who is interested in majoring in philosophy?

"Do it. Majoring in philosophy is the most eye opening experience; it will challenge you in a way that you have never been challenged before but you will come out the other side knowing how to think critically. This is a tool that you will be able to use in every aspect of life."

"Do not be intimidated, and come in with a willingness to learn. Also, do not expect all the answers to life. Some things remain a mystery."

"I would tell them to always go to office hours and try to do most of the readings assigned, but not to get too caught up on finishing readings because there is a likelihood that it is going to be way too much to be able to do. The most important thing in philosophy is to be familiar with material, attend class, and participate in all discussions."

What was your favorite philosophy class at Loyola?

"PHIL 321- Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy with Dr. David Schweikart. I loved going to that class because every topic was fascinating and I felt like I learned a lot about economic and political philosophy. Dr. Schweikart is one of the best professors I have ever had and I would take that class again in a heartbeat."

"It is very hard to pick one philosophy class at Loyola, I have loved all of my experiences within this department. All of my professors have been a tremendous help in my growth as a person and as a student. I thank you all for your patience and assistance in my journey."