



PHILOSOPHY | COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

B.A. IN PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy is the use of reason to gain a deeper understanding of the fundamental questions that affect the human condition. Does God exist? Is there an afterlife? Are we able to think, feel and remember because of physical processes going on in our brains or because we have a non-physical soul? What kind of moral principles should we adopt in our life? What, if anything, can we know with certainty about the world? These are all examples of philosophical questions that have been at the center of the discipline since the time of the ancient Greeks.

The philosophy program at IU Northwest is designed to contribute to the intellectual training of its undergraduate students and to acquaint them with the most important developments in the history of ideas. Courses in the program emphasize clear and cogent thinking about fundamental problems, locate the origins of these problems in the writings of the great philosophers, and provide in-depth examinations of proposed solutions.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of a B.A. in Philosophy requires a total of 120 credit hours with a minimum of 30 credit hours in the discipline as well as a minimum 2.0 grade point average. Philosophy majors must also meet the general education requirements established by the College of Arts and Sciences.

COURSEWORK

The curriculum includes a course in logic, three courses from the sequence in the history of philosophy (ancient Greek philosophy, medieval philosophy, early modern philosophy, and 19th-century philosophy), and one advanced course in each of the following areas: ethics, metaphysics or epistemology, and 20th-century philosophy.

In their senior year, philosophy majors must complete a capstone requirement in which they work one-on-one with a faculty member to conduct an in-depth exploration of a philosophical topic and produce a substantial piece of writing on it.

The IU Northwest philosophy program has a special collaborative agreement with the philosophy program at Purdue University Calumet. The agreement is designed to give our students access to the broadest possible spectrum of courses and areas of philosophical research. Students in our program may take up to nine credit hours in philosophy at Purdue University Calumet.

Students should consult with the department for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Full-time faculty members are trained in a broad array of philosophical concentrations and have special strengths in the history of philosophy, ethics (both general and applied), theory of human rights, philosophy of law, metaphysics, and the philosophy of religion.

Faculty members have a very active research agenda and have published their work in nationally and internationally recognized journals.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A B.A. IN PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy teaches individuals how to read, write and think critically, three abilities that are extremely valuable to employers. A degree in philosophy is excellent preparation for any career that requires clear thinking and strong analytical skills. This includes law, medicine, journalism, teaching, and the clergy, as well as work in corporations, government and non-profit organizations.

Thanks to their excellent reasoning skills, philosophy majors tend to be especially successful when taking standardized tests, such as the GRE, the MCAT or the LSAT, in order to compete for admission to graduate school.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Many advanced courses are taught as independent study classes. Students have an opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty member to gain a thorough understanding of the subject matter and fully develop their philosophical skills. The program emphasizes the practice of philosophy through human interaction and aims to produce graduates with superior reasoning and communication skills.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The philosophy program has been growing in recent years. The creation of a permanent undergraduate Philosophy Club is under way.

RELATED DEGREE OPTION

- Minor in Philosophy

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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