



PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY.RICHMOND.EDU

Philosophy at the University of Richmond

Philosophy involves the critical examination of the key concepts, presuppositions, and implications in play across the range of human inquiry. Studying philosophy significantly enhances any undergraduate curriculum, regardless of its focus — first challenging, then increasing one's understanding.

The philosophy department offers many courses designed to reinforce studies in a variety of fields, as well as an undergraduate major and minor for those who want to pursue philosophy systematically. Flexible enough to complement many other interests, philosophy concentrations are well suited for students who wish to double major. Students may also earn credit toward a Philosophy major or minor while studying abroad. Our pursuit of wisdom continues outside the classroom, in a vibrant undergraduate Philosophy Club and an engaged and accessible faculty.

Requirements for the Major and Minor

Each major or minor student is assigned an advisor to help in developing a program that meets educational goals. Every major and minor program, however, is built around a required core.

All majors must take: Elementary Symbolic Logic; Ancient Greek Philosophy; Modern Western Philosophy; and Philosophical Methods. Majors also complete six philosophy electives: a 300-level Category I course, a 300-level Category II course, two additional 300-level electives, a 200-level or above elective, and one elective at any level, which may include a First-Year Seminar taught in philosophy.

For a minor, students must complete five courses, including Ancient Greek Philosophy and Modern European Philosophy. They then must complete three philosophy electives: two 300-level or higher courses and one course at any level, which may include a First-Year Seminar taught in philosophy.

Careers

Studying philosophy is a sound foundation for many careers as well as for graduate school. Many majors have continued study in law, medicine, philosophy, physics, religion, psychology, architecture, just to name a few fields. Others have taken jobs in business, music, sports, the military, and for various government, public service, religious, and charitable organizations.

Some recent graduates are pursuing Ph.D. degrees in top-tier graduate programs. Upon completing Ph.D. programs, our graduates have accepted tenure-track positions in philosophy at both liberal arts colleges and research institutions.

Special Curricula

Highly qualified and motivated students may seek departmental honors or pursue an independent study. Successful applicants will be assigned an advisor/mentor to guide their work and monitor their progress.

Honors. Application for admission to the Philosophy Honors Program may be made by junior majors with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 on all work and who have completed at least 3.5 units in the philosophy department (above the introductory level) with distinction.

To receive honors in philosophy, students must complete these courses with distinction: Honors Seminar, Honors Thesis, and two additional upper-level philosophy courses or seminars designated for honors credit and involving special projects.

The program's keystone is researching and writing a senior honors thesis on the basis of a proposal developed and approved in the junior year.

Independent Study. Majors with a departmental GPA of at least 3.0 may apply to do an independent study during any semester subsequent to application. Most independent studies focus on researching and writing a substantial paper based on a

proposal developed by the student and approved by the department.

Cocurricular Programs

Speakers Series. Every year, several distinguished visiting philosophers give public lectures. Past years' speakers series have featured Harry Frankfurt (Princeton University), Barbara Herman [UCLA], Angela Smith [Washington and Lee University], Geoff Sayre-McCord (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Cora Diamond (University of Virginia), Ted Sider (Rutgers University), Jeff McMahan (Oxford University), and Alexander Nehamas (Princeton University). There is always an opportunity to talk with these scholars both individually and in groups.

Conversation. Richmond students, faculty with philosophical interests, and occasional guests meet to discuss issues of common concern on a regular basis. These sessions are informal and wide ranging, and participants come from different fields.

Reading Groups. Interested department faculty and students meet from time to time to discuss philosophical works they are reading independently of classes and seminars. Sessions are informal, and the works discussed are selected by mutual agreement.

Philosophy Club. This organization, open to all interested Richmond undergraduates, sponsors philosophical and social events.

Phi Sigma Tau. The philosophy honorary society has the dual purpose of recognizing student achievement in philosophy and encouraging philosophical reflection throughout the campus. Phi Sigma Tau also works with the Philosophy Club to sponsor philosophical and social events.

Faculty

Karin Boxer

Assistant professor

Ph.D., University of Oxford

Areas of specialty: medical ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of law, history of ethics, applied ethics

Geoff Goddu

James Thomas Professor of Philosophy

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts,
Amherst

Areas of specialty: logic, argumentation theory, philosophy of mind, metaphysics

David Lefkowitz

Professor and Department chair

Ph.D., University of Maryland

Areas of specialty: political and social philosophy, philosophy of law

Miriam McCormick

Professor

Ph.D., McGill University

Areas of specialty: early modern philosophy, epistemology, ethics

Brannon McDaniel

Associate professor

Ph.D., University of Virginia

Area of specialty: metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science

William Reckner

Assistant professor

Ph.D., University of California

Areas of specialty: Kant, practical philosophy, theory of cognition, philosophy of science, ethics

Nancy Schauber

Associate professor

Ph.D., Yale University

Areas of specialty: ethics, philosophy of law, ancient philosophy, moral psychology, action theory

Jeppe von Platz

Associate professor

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Areas of specialty: social and political philosophy, history of normative thought



OFFICE OF ADMISSION

(800) 700-1662 • (804) 289-8640

richmond.edu

Dr. David Lefkowitz, Department Chair
(804) 289-8733 • dlefkowi@richmond.edu

philosophy.richmond.edu