Philosophy

Philosophy is many things—a reasoned pursuit of fundamental truths, a quest for a deeper understanding of life, a study of principles of conduct. It seeks to establish standards of evidence, to provide rational methods of resolving conflicts, and to create techniques for evaluating ideas and arguments.

Philosophy pursues questions in every dimension of human life, and its techniques apply to problems in any field of study or endeavor. Philosophical inquiry develops the capacity to see the world from the perspective of other individuals and other cultures; it enhances our ability to perceive the relationships among the various fields of study, and it deepens our sense of the meaning and varieties of human experience.

Philosophy focuses on a wide range of topics of significant human interest. It teaches us to probe more deeply into fundamental questions and to develop reasoned responses to them. The study of philosophy is relevant to all aspects of life and can be pursued productively at many levels.

Philosophy’s breadth allows you to approach it from many different directions, so it is not necessary to follow a single structured sequence of courses. As a philosophy major at Wichita State University, you design an individual course of study in close consultation with your department faculty advisor.

The study of philosophy requires the close reading of texts, critical thinking, attention to detailed argument and articulate expression of ideas. It provides, therefore, excellent preparation for a wide range of endeavors in which such skills are necessary. Philosophy graduates pursue many careers, including teaching, law, medicine, city management, news reporting and business.

WSU’s philosophy department reflects the scope and diversity of the philosophical enterprise both in the wide variety of courses it offers and in the interests of its faculty.

Admission

When you choose to study philosophy, you will be admitted to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. You will be assigned a faculty advisor in the philosophy department who will help you develop your program of study and who will outline specific requirements.

If you are still deciding on a major when you start at Wichita State, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center can help you explore career and major options.

Related Opportunities

Wichita State’s philosophy department sponsors the Philosophy Society, open to any University student who is interested in philosophy. If eligible, you may join the national philosophy honorary society, Phi Sigma Tau.

If eligible, you may be selected for university academic honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board.

Related Programs

If you are in a pre-professional program such as pre-law or pre-medicine, you are encouraged to major or minor in philosophy. Also, if you have a professional major such as computer science or business, it can be enhanced by acquiring a broad humanities background through a second major in philosophy.

General Education Program

Well-Rounded Learning

Wichita State strives to offer the most complete college experience possible to produce well-rounded, successful Shocker graduates. Through general education courses, students explore subjects outside of their major, expanding their knowledge, perspective and skills and making a positive impact on their career and life.

Benefits of general education courses:

- Improved critical thinking skills
- Better communication, written and spoken
- Increased analytical reasoning and problem solving
- An acquired knowledge of natural and social science, the arts and humanities

Improve skills by taking courses that include diversity content, study abroad experiences, service learning and experience-based learning.
Major Requirements

Philosophy majors, in consultation with a faculty advisor, develop an individual course of study consisting of at least 27 hours in courses numbered 300 or above. Two sample plans are given; many others are possible.

For a student wanting a broad education in humanities

- The Meaning of Philosophy - 3 credit hours
- Introductory Logic - 3 credit hours
- Moral Issues
  - OR
  - Ethical Theory - 3 credit hours
- History of philosophy courses (ancient Greek, early modern, later modern, nineteenth century) - 6-12 credit hours
- Science and the Modern World
  - OR
  - Philosophy of Science
  - OR
  - Theory of Knowledge - 3 credit hours
- Philosophy electives - 3-9 credit hours

For a student in pre-law

- Introductory Logic - 3 credit hours
- Moral Issues
  - OR
  - Ethical Theory
  - OR
  - Bioethics 3 - 3 credit hours
- Political Philosophy
  - OR
  - Philosophy of Feminism - 3 credit hours
- Philosophy of Law - 3 credit hours
- Ancient Greek Philosophy - 3 credit hours
- Early Modern Philosophy - 3 credit hours
- Science and the Modern World
  - OR
  - Philosophy of Science
  - OR
  - Theory of Knowledge - 3 credit hours
- Philosophy electives - 6 credit hours

*Some of the courses listed in Major Requirements will count toward the General Education Requirements.

For more information

If you have further questions or would like to schedule a campus visit, please contact the Office of Admissions.

Marcus Welcome Center  wichita.edu/admissions
Office of Admissions  wichita.edu/visit
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0124

KSDegreeStats.org

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For more information on Philosophy at WSU visit wichita.edu/philosophy or call (316) 978-3125.