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.

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 Requirements
What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:
1. Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
2. Think critically and independently
3. Write and speak effectively
4. Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques
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

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity or the Title IX Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0138; telephone (316) 978-3187.

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