PHILOSOPHY

College of Arts and Humanities
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The department offers a varied and challenging undergraduate curriculum that allows students to acquire a solid general education in philosophy or to concentrate in more specialized areas. Studying philosophy provides good preparation for some popular careers. Recent data show that philosophy majors do very well on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), for example. We don't find this surprising, since studying philosophy develops capacities to analyze complex arguments and to think critically.

PROGRAMS

Majors

- Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/philosophy/human-centered-artificial-intelligence-major/)
- Philosophy Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/philosophy/philosophy-major/)
- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/philosophy/philosophy-politics-economics-major/)

Minor

- Philosophy Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/philosophy/philosophy-minor/)

ADVISING

Philosophy majors and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics majors are encouraged to meet with an advisor in the Philosophy Department and a College of Arts and Humanities advisor as they select their courses, develop their academic plans, and plan their careers. They must meet with both advisors at the following intervals:

- During their first semester
- When they have earned between 45-55 credits
- When they have earned between 86-100 credits

Please contact philadv@umd.edu to schedule an advising meeting with a Philosophy Department advisor. More information about Philosophy Department advising can be found here: https://philosophy.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate-program/advising (https://philosophy.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate-program/advising/).

To review the academic plan for this major, go to http://arhu.umd.edu/academicsadvising/academic-plans/.

OPPORTUNITIES

Honors Program

The Philosophy Honors Program allows exceptional students the opportunity to work closely with a member of the Philosophy faculty on a project, typically a 30-40 page philosophical paper (i.e., "Honors Thesis"), during the final two semesters of his/her undergraduate career. The two semesters of independent study with the faculty advisor culminate in the student presenting and defending the Honors Thesis before a committee consisting of 2-3 faculty members in addition to the advisor.

Successful students will graduate with Honors in Philosophy.
Requirements and Procedures

- A prospective honors student should normally have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and a GPA of 3.75 in philosophy classes with no grade below a "C" in any philosophy course.
  - A prospective honors student should find a willing faculty advisor in the spring semester before the senior year.[1]
  - The student must present a proposal to the prospective advisor at the end of the spring semester.[1]
  - The proposal will typically include a list of proposed readings, a clear and appropriately narrow topic, and a projected position to be defended in the Honors Thesis.
  - This proposal will then be submitted to the Undergraduate Affairs Committee for approval.
- If the proposal is approved, the student will enroll in 498F (3 credits) the following semester and the student and advisor will agree on a schedule for meetings and the work expected by the end of the semester.
- At the end of the semester, the advisor will evaluate the student's progress and will decide whether the student should continue work on the Honors Thesis for another semester.
- If, at the end of the first semester, the advisor judges that the project should not continue, the student will be given a grade for 498F but will not enroll in 498G in the subsequent semester and will not receive an Honors degree.
- If, at the end of the first semester, the advisor thinks the project should continue, the student will enroll in 498G (3 credits) and the student and advisor will agree on a schedule of meetings and a timeline for completion of the Honors Thesis.
- The student, in consultation with the advisor, will arrange an examining committee of at least 2 faculty members in addition to the advisor. The student will present and defend the Honors Thesis before this examining committee. The faculty advisor determines the grade for 498G but the committee determines whether the student graduates with Honors.

[1] Or, for students graduating in December, the semester prior to the student's next to last semester

Student Societies and Professional Organizations

The Philosophy Club holds weekly meetings during the semester to discuss philosophical topics of interest to members.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, visit: http://financialaid.umd.edu.

Awards and Recognition

The W.E. Schlaretzki Prize is given to the most outstanding graduating senior each year. The Joseph and Beth Duckett Scholarship is given to the most outstanding junior.