

PHILOSOPHY

Program Description

Philosophy explores fundamental questions such as: Who am I? What is important? What is valuable? Why am I here? How do we tell truths from falsehoods? How should we behave? What is the best way to live? How do we know what we know? What is beautiful? The answers to these questions apply to other disciplines, problems, and life endeavors. As Michael Morgenstern explains, philosophy can help us to be "better, more critical thinkers and communicators in our jobs. It can teach us to be skeptical of political rhetoric and advertising. It can help us to consider what is worth caring about and so perhaps to begin to make the world a better place." And Edward Tenner reminds us that, "Philosophy majors also score highest among disciplines in verbal reasoning and analytical writing on the GRE aptitude test." Rebecca Newberger Goldstein adds that philosophy is "always a good thing to know, no matter what you go on to study—to be able to think critically. To challenge your own point of view. Also, you need to be a citizen in this world. You need to know your responsibilities. You're going to have many moral choices every day of your life. And it enriches your inner life. You have lots of frameworks to apply to problems, and so many ways to interpret things. It makes life so much more interesting. It's us at our most human. And it helps us increase our humanity. No matter what you do, that's an asset." In short, philosophy exemplifies a university education: you encounter iconic works, engage in rigorous debate, and learn to think critically. Studying philosophy complements any major, and the minor works well as a pre-professional degree.

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Programs of Study

Minors

- [Philosophy \(Minor\)](#)