

# Philosophy

at Coastal Carolina University

## What does a philosophy major study?

Philosophy is the study of the most fundamental questions that arise in our reflection on ourselves and our place in the natural world. Philosophers want to know, for instance, whether God exists or whether humans have souls. Most students who major in philosophy study it for its intrinsic interest. Nonetheless, pursuing an academic degree will give you many skills which will make you a valuable employee in many different fields.

## Why study philosophy at Coastal Carolina University?

- The philosophy department at Coastal Carolina University offers small and engaging classes and provides excellent advising and support for each individual student.
- Philosophy majors will experience a rigorous curriculum in logic, the history of philosophy, and the traditional disciplines of epistemology and metaphysics.
- Students will be immersed in the study of ethics. A required course in ethical theory will introduce the student to the core ethical theories of Western philosophy. Building upon that foundation, our philosophy majors will select at least one additional course in applied ethics (business, bio-medicine, environment, contemporary moral issues).
- This concentration will culminate in a required capstone senior thesis course in ethics. The special topic for the capstone course will be chosen by the student in consultation with the philosophy faculty.

## What are some career options for philosophy majors?

Many students who major in philosophy go on to graduate or professional schools, usually in law, medicine or business. Philosophy is an excellent field to major in for these professional schools. The emphasis on careful and rigorous analysis of arguments is particularly helpful for law (and the LSAT's). According to a recent study, the average LSAT score for a philosophy major was nearly 15 points higher than the average score for any other major. It is also worth noting that according to a study recently completed by the American Medical Association, philosophy majors had a very high acceptance rate into American medical schools. Many philosophy majors go into business (investment banking being a popular field), teaching and a number of other fields. Some continue their study of philosophy at the graduate level.

## What kind of courses do philosophy majors take?

PHIL	101	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL	110	Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking
PHIL	305	Contemporary Moral Problems
PHIL	317	Bio-Medical Ethics
PHIL	325	Philosophy of Religion
RELG	104	Introduction to East Asian Religions
RELG	320	Introduction to Buddhism

## Whom can I contact for more information?

- Michael Ruse, Ph.D., chair of the department, 843-349-2548 or [mruset@coastal.edu](mailto:mruset@coastal.edu)
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- You can also obtain more information at [www.coastal.edu/philosophy/humanities](http://www.coastal.edu/philosophy/humanities).

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