

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 seriously will give you a lot of skills which will make you a valuable employee, and moreover give you the skills that will be valuable not just in one or another specific job or enterprise, but for an almost open-ended number of careers.

Why study philosophy at Coastal Carolina?

- 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 kinds 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?

- Nils Rauhut, Ph.D., chair of the department, (843) 349-2547 or nrauhut@coastal.edu
- Stephanie Freeman, administrative assistant, (843) 349-2476 or freeman@coastal.edu
- You can also get more information at www.coastal.edu/philosophy/phil/.

**Coastal
Carolina
University**

P.O. Box 261954
Conway, S.C.
29528-6054

(800) 277-7000
www.coastal.edu