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MINNESOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY
MANKATO

PHILOSOPHY *College of Humanities and Social Sciences*

OVERVIEW

Philosophy investigates the fundamental nature of the mind and world, examines general questions about value, and strives to articulate the ideals of rational deliberation. According to Plato and Aristotle, philosophy begins in wonder, and when it is done well, it leads us to new ideas and new knowledge, and clears away confused and misguided ways of thinking. Philosophy helps develop habits of mind that are useful in every walk of life. Our department aims to foster independent and critical thinking in all of our students.

DEGREES & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Degree:

Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Minors & Certificates:

Philosophy Minor

Ethics Minor

Human-Animal Studies Minor

Critical Thinking Minor

Critical Thinking Certificate

Affiliated Programs:

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) (BA)

Cognitive Science (BS)

Careers:

Philosophy is a preferred pre-law and pre-medicine major because it develops strong analytic and critical thinking skills, along with written and oral communication, research, and creative problem solving skills. These transferable skills are highly valuable in every profession, including information technology, journalism, banking, counseling, non-profit leadership, real estate, law, marketing, consulting, and business leadership.

We offer workshops and resources to help our students with career planning and networking.

QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM

Faculty:

Our faculty hold PhDs from highly-ranked philosophy programs in the United States and Great Britain. They have authored books, articles in academic journals and reference works, and are often invited to present their research to audiences around the United States and abroad.

Alumni:

Our graduates do very well in gaining admission to graduate and professional programs. Some of the programs our graduates have gone on to include:

- » Philosophy (Brown University, Arizona State University, the CUNY Graduate Center, Texas A&M, University of Colorado)
- » Law (UCLA, University of Minnesota, William Mitchell College of Law, Hamline University, American University, Nebraska)
- » Medicine (University of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic Medical School, University of South Dakota)
- » Sociology (University of Massachusetts, South Dakota State University, University of Oklahoma)
- » Journalism (University of California)
- » Theology/Divinity (Luther Seminary, Concordia, Garrett Evangelical, Princeton Seminary)
- » Public Administration (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
- » Creative Writing (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
- » Business (University of St. Thomas, Oklahoma State University, Southwest Minnesota State, Metropolitan State University)

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Class size:

Most of our lower-division courses are capped at 25 students, and many of our upper-division courses have a small number of students in them to allow for a lot of student-faculty interaction. If you are a Philosophy major, your professors will know who you are!

Student/Faculty Collaboration:

Students have many opportunities to do independent research with faculty members. Students in our Philosophy Honors Program spend two semesters writing a thesis paper with faculty mentoring, and have opportunities to present their work to other students and faculty.

Guest Lectures and Philosophy Colloquium:

The Philosophy Department hosts a number of lecture series that bring national to internationally renowned philosophers to campus; many of these speakers give guest lectures in our major courses. Some recent speakers include Peter Singer, Daniel Dennett, Martha Nussbaum, Tyler Burge, and Kwame Anthony Appiah. Our students have many opportunities to interact personally with all of our guest speakers.

Scholarships:

The Philosophy Department offers 3 need-based scholarships annually.

Study Abroad:

The Philosophy Department has a partnership with the Philosophy Programme at Queens University Belfast, in Northern Ireland. Students can study abroad for a semester or a year at QUB without delaying their time to graduation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Philosophy

Minnesota State University, Mankato
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Mankato, MN 56001

Phone

507-389-2012 (V)
800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

Website

hss.mnsu.edu/philosophy

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR CURRICULUM (PHILOSOPHY, BA)

First Year (Fall)	First Year (Spring)
PHIL 110 Logic & Critical Thinking (3) ENG 101 Composition (4) General Education, Goal Area 5 (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 8 (3-4)	PHIL Unrestricted Elective (3) General Education, Goal Area 3 (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 6 (3-4) Elective (3-4)
Second Year (Fall)	Second Year (Spring)
PHIL Unrestricted Elective (3) PHIL Major Restricted Elective (3) General Education, Goal Area 1B (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 3 (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 5 (3-4)	PHIL 336W History of Philosophy: Renaissance and Modern Philosophy (3) PHIL Major Restricted Elective (3) General Education, Goal Area 6 (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 7 (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 9 (3-4)
Third Year (Fall)	Third Year (Spring)
PHIL 334W History of Philosophy: Classical Philosophy (3) PHIL Unrestricted Elective (3) Minor Course (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 10 (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 11 (1)	PHIL Unrestricted Elective (3) PHIL Unrestricted Elective (3) Minor Course (3) Minor Course (3) Elective (3-4)
Fourth Year (Fall)	Fourth Year (Spring)
PHIL 495 Senior Thesis I (2) Minor Course (3-4) Minor Course (3-4) Minor Course (3-4) Elective (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 11 (1)	PHIL 496 Senior Thesis II (1) Electives (12-15)

For additional information about course requirements, please visit hss.mnsu.edu/philosophy

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