

Majoring in Philosophy

Philosophy is an excellent major and we're very proud of the Philosophy Department here at GSU. The Department offers a **B.A. in Philosophy** and B.A. in Philosophy with a **Pre-Law Concentration**, each of which requires 11 courses in philosophy (2 in area F and 9 in area G).

We are delighted that you have decided to join us as a major. To help you get going, we've outlined some important steps below that all philosophy students should take.

- 1) **Declare the major** and meet with your academic advisor: Marsha Brouard (University Advisement Center, 5th floor of 25 Park Place): 404-413-2658; mbrouard@gsu.edu
- 2) Join [philmajor listserv](#) for news and updates. Also check out the [Philosophers' Guild](#) (undergrad club), and come by for the department's free pizza lunches.
- 3) **Get your free Philosophy t-shirt.** See [Lauren Cooper](#) (Administrative Specialist) or [Prof. Eric Wilson](#) (Director of Undergraduate Studies) on 16th floor of 25 Park Place.
- 4) Take **the right courses in the right order.**

- First take these:

- Phil 2010 (Intro to Phil) *or* Phil 2030 (Intro to Ethics)
- Phil 3000 CTW course (first course to take after 2010)

- Then take these (in any order or simultaneously):

- Phil 3010 Origins of Western Philosophy
- Phil 3020 17th-18th Century European Philosophy
(3010 recommended but not required for 3020)
- Phil 2500 Intro Logic
(good for LSAT; required for distinction)
- One course in Value Theory area
- One course in Metaphysics & Epistemology area
- Four more Philosophy courses at Phil 3000-4000 level

- **Pre-law Requirement:** same as above, but instead of 4 more Philosophy courses: two 3000-4000 level courses + Phil 4820 (spring only) + one law-related elective (outside Philosophy, from approved list)

For more details, see the course catalogue:

<https://catalog.gsu.edu/undergraduate20172018/philosophy/>

- 5) Stay on top of your graduation requirements. You need 120 hours for graduation. Make sure to complete other requirements in Area A-F (including Lang 1002), the Residency Requirement (39 hrs at 3000-4000 level), and earn grade of C or better in all area G courses.
- 6) Take advantage of the excellent resources and opportunities in philosophy. Meet with your advisors and faculty mentors to discuss internship possibilities, whether to get a minor (or second major), your career and post-graduation plans, your eligibility to write an Honors Thesis, and Study Abroad opportunities.

Minoring in Philosophy

A minor in philosophy can broaden your horizons and improve your analytical skills. We offer [two options](#): a Minor in Philosophy and a Minor in Ethics. Each minor requires 15 hours in philosophy. Both are flexible and pair well with a wide variety of majors.

Why study philosophy?

There are a lot of great reasons to study philosophy.

- Philosophy deepens and enriches your experience of life. Students of philosophy explore some of the most fundamental and fascinating questions about the mind, human nature, evil, justice, scientific knowledge, art, and religion.
- Philosophy sharpens your mind. It teaches argument analysis, attention to detail, creative problem solving, and good communication skills (written and oral).
- Philosophy can prepare you for a wide range of interesting and rewarding careers. Check out this recent article from the *Washington Post* on the value of philosophy: ["For Philosophy majors, the question after graduation is: what next?"](#)
- Philosophy can provide excellent preparation for law school, other professional schools, and a wide range of graduate programs. [Philosophy majors tend to perform extremely well on standardized tests such as the LSAT, GMAT, and GRE.](#)
- According to the [Wall Street Journal](#), philosophy majors can earn a very good living over the course of their careers.
- Most other academic subjects originated in philosophy, and it remains highly interdisciplinary. So philosophy makes for an excellent double major or minor.