

# PHILOSOPHY

bachelor of arts

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Q**uestions about the world and how we, as human beings, fit in occur to everyone at some point in his or her life. Students of philosophy ask the same fundamental questions but they seek the answers in a disciplined and systematic way. In this program, you will examine the theory of knowledge, explore moral reasoning, and improve your critical thinking and analytical skills. In a rapidly changing and often mystifying world, it's important as well as comforting to know that there are those who strive to understand what cannot be understood in any other way.

## ADVANTAGE UIS

- **Historical perspective.** The history of philosophy is itself a part of the subject of philosophy. In this program, you'll take courses in ancient and modern philosophy and learn the value of considering both current and past debates while developing and defending positions on questions of a fundamental nature.
- **Analytical Thinking about the World and about Values.** There are two main areas of study in this program: Core analytical philosophy (philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, and related areas); and values (ethics, aesthetics, and political philosophy). You'll leave the program with a broad understanding of this fascinating discipline, enhanced critical thinking skills and strong problem-solving experience in at least one of the main areas.
- **Faculty depth and breadth.** UIS philosophy faculty members hold Ph.D.s from the best graduate schools like Princeton, MIT and major European universities. They are widely published and have strengths in areas including moral and political philosophy, advanced logic, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, philosophy of science and history of philosophy.

## What can I do with this degree?

The skills you gain as a philosophy major are extremely useful in many other disciplines—and for a range of careers. Many philosophy majors attend law school and establish legal practices. Others go on to graduate study with the goal of teaching at the college level. A significant number of majors go into computer science, but other philosophy students pursue careers in a great range of fields, from business and medicine to writing, arts administration, publishing, and more.

## Earning the Degree Online.

You can choose to earn this degree entirely online in the comfort of your home. In fact, most of our majors are online. Unlike many other institutions, UIS does not handle online education through a "continuing education" or "distance learning" division. Online courses are equal in stature to on-campus courses, and may be freely combined with them. There are no online degrees, only UIS degrees.

Online philosophy courses are also offered to non-majors, including Philosophy minors.

### Wise Words

Michael Cernovich, B.A. '01  
Law student  
Pepperdine University Law School

"By taking several philosophy courses at UIS, I learned to think creatively and analytically. In law, analysis is crucial, since the words in statutes and cases can have many different meanings. Also, law is adversarial. A good law student or lawyer must be able to anticipate the other side's arguments. My philosophical education has helped me to anticipate and refute opposing arguments."

The Philosophy program at UIS offers advanced undergraduate education online and on-campus. It focuses in the areas of core analytic philosophy (philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, and related areas) and values (ethics, aesthetics, and political philosophy) while providing a sound background in the history of philosophy.

**Faculty** John Barker, Peter (Piotr) Boltuc, Roxanne Marie Kurtz, Larry Shiner  
**Adjunct faculty** Tomasz Bigaj, Royce Jones, Natalie Vania  
**Emeritus faculty** Peter Wenz

**Entrance requirements**

Prerequisites: In order to make an informed choice of their major, students must take at least two classes (no less than 6 hours) as prerequisites for the major:

- 1) Critical Thinking (PHI 301) or Logic prerequisite, and
- 2) the general prerequisite.

In some cases students may be conditionally accepted to the major and take care of the prerequisites within their first year in the program. Capital Scholars students have their humanities section count as the general prerequisite. Prerequisites do not count toward the 36 hours required for the major.

**Matriculation module**

Students must take the matriculation module in order to gain general information both about philosophy and studying philosophy online. It also allows the program to conduct necessary assessment activities. The matriculation must be completed before the last 16 semester hours of Philosophy courses are taken.

**The three main areas of study**

Students must take a minimum of two classes in the following three areas: history of philosophy, values, and core analytical philosophy .

**History Of Philosophy**

In order to a gain comprehensive outlook on the history of philosophy, students have to take one class in ancient and medieval philosophy, such as Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (PHI 422, 4 Hrs.) and one class in the history of modern philosophy such as History of Modern Philosophy (PHI 425, 4 Hrs.) or program approved equivalents.

**Values**

In order to gain familiarity with value theory, students are required to take at least two classes (8 hours) in the areas of ethics, aesthetics, or political philosophy. This includes a requirement to take a minimum of two hours devoted specifically to ethics, satisfied by Ethical Theory PHI 440 or an equivalent approved by the program.

**Core Analytical Philosophy**

In order to gain analytical skills, students must take at least two classes (8 hours) in the area of core philosophy, such as philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, analytical metaphysics, or logic.

**The area of specialization**

In addition to the eight hours required of all majors, students specialize in either core analytic philosophy or values, taking eight additional hours in the chosen area. The eight additional hours include an advanced class in the area of specialization and an associated senior seminar. The **Senior Seminar** in one's area of specialization builds on the experience in other classes in order to tackle relatively advanced problems appropriate for graduating BA students.

**Philosophy elective**

In order to gain a broad philosophical perspective, every major needs to take 4 hours of philosophy lectives (classes offered in the areas of philosophy that are not the main focus of this major, such as Continental, Feminist, or Asian Philosophy; American Pragmatism; or Philosophy of Religion), or other courses.

**Degree Requirements**

**Prerequisites:**

General (any class in philosophy or CAP Humanities)	3 Hrs.
Critical Thinking (or Logic)	3 Hrs.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6 Hrs.</b>

**Bachelor of Arts:**

Matriculation Module	0 Hrs.
Area 1	8 Hrs.
Area 2	8 Hrs.
Area 3	8 Hrs.
Area of Specialization	4 Hrs.
Capstone Seminar (in specialization)	4 Hrs.
Philosophy elective	4 Hrs.
UIS requirements	12 Hrs.
General electives (at least 6 hours outside of the philosophy discipline)	12 Hrs.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>60 Hrs.</b>

**Philosophy minor**

The minor consists of four classes (at least 15 hours), at least 8 hours must be upper-division classes taken in philosophy at UIS, with at least three hours in each of the following areas:

- Critical Thinking (or Logic).
  - Values (Ethics, Aesthetics, Political Philosophy)
  - History of Philosophy
  - An elective (any class or independent study in philosophy)
- Students wishing to minor in philosophy need to formally declare their minor and to consult with a faculty member in the Philosophy program to ensure that they are meeting their individual needs and program requirements.

**Visit our website for more information on**

- Admission to Philosophy Online Program
- UIS Admissions Requirements
- General Education requirements/electives

**To view course descriptions**

[uis.edu/uiscatalog](http://uis.edu/uiscatalog)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Philosophy**

(217) 206-6779 or [phi@uis.edu](mailto:phi@uis.edu)  
 Shawna Leady, Online Coordinator  
 (217) 206-7429, UHB 3073

**Website** [uis.edu/philosophy](http://uis.edu/philosophy)

**Office of Admissions**

(217) 206-4847, Toll free (888) 977-4847  
[admissions@uis.edu](mailto:admissions@uis.edu)  
[uis.edu/admissions](http://uis.edu/admissions)

*IMPORTANT* — Information effective fall 2009. Subject to change without notice. The information is not to be considered final, nor does it constitute a contract between the student and UIS. See [www.uis.edu/uiscatalog](http://www.uis.edu/uiscatalog) for current program requirements.

