

PHILOSOPHY

KEY POINTS ABOUT THE MAJOR

- Students gain a strong background in the Western philosophical tradition and contemporary issues in Philosophy.
- Students learn to solve problems, think clearly, and speak and write articulately—skills that are important for graduate studies and various careers. *The New York Times Career Planner* notes that Philosophy “has found a new role in the high-tech world.”
- Current graduates have found success both in careers and in graduate programs.
- Requirements of the program provide the flexibility to add a second major or minor.
- To prepare students for law school, a specifically designed Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a Pre-Law Concentration is available.

“This is an exciting time to study Philosophy at ODU, as shown by our growing number of Philosophy majors. We take Philosophy seriously by treating it as a way to think rigorously about important questions. We also have a good time along the way. Students leave with a strong background in the history of Philosophy and the ability to solve problems, think clearly, and speak and write articulately. These skills will benefit them throughout their lives.”

- Dr. Lawrence Masek,
Assistant Professor of
Philosophy



Sample Four-Year Plan

The sample course plan below is a *sample* plan for your major. It does not and should not replace meeting with your Academic Advisor to map out the best course plan that suits your individual academic needs and placement upon initial registration. Classes listed may not necessarily be offered during a particular term.

First Year (Freshman)

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
ENG 101 Thinking and Writing Across the Curriculum	3	ENG 102L Scholarly Adventures: Researched Writing	3
Math Requirement (MTH 121 or higher)	3	Natural Science Requirement	3
PHL 109 Issues in Philosophy*	3	PHL Elective	3
First-Year Core Seminar 179	3	Theology Requirement**	3
Elective	3	Elective	3

Second Year (Sophomore)

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Foreign Language I	3	PHL 36X (from History of Philosophy sequence)	3
Social and Behavioral Science Requirement	3	Social and Behavioral Science Requirement	3
Elective***	6	Foreign Language II	3
Sophomore Core Seminar 279	3	Elective***	6

Third Year (Junior)

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Arts and Ideas Requirement	3	PHL 36X (from History of Philosophy sequence)	3
Elective***	6	Theology Requirement**	3
Junior Core Seminar 379	3	Arts and Ideas Requirement	3
PHL Elective	3	Elective***	6

Fourth Year (Senior)

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
PHL 36X (from History of Philosophy sequence)	3	PHL 479 Senior Seminar in Philosophy	3
PHL Elective	3	Diversity, Global, Multicultural Requirement	3
Elective***	6	Electives***	9
Arts and Ideas Requirement	3		

*No more than eight credits at the 100-level may count toward the PHL major or minor.

**At least one Theology course must be at the 200-level or higher.

***Electives may be focused toward the completion of a minor or a second major. Most minors consist of 20-24 credits.

For More Information

Full descriptions for all ODU courses are available on the ODU website. Core curriculum and four-year course blueprint are based on the 2013-2014 edition of the ODU Course Catalog.

For more information, contact your Admission Counselor or Academic Advisor at admissions@ohiodominican.edu or at 614.251.4500.

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COURSES WITHIN THE MAJOR

- Introductory courses that initiate students into conversations about the important questions of Philosophy: Issues in Philosophy, Philosophy of Good and Evil, and Theories of Ethics
- Courses about ethical issues: Applied Ethics, Ethical Issues of Sex & Marriage, Bioethics, Principles of Business Ethics, Philosophy of Good & Evil, and Philosophy of the Human Person
- Courses that cover the main periods of Western Philosophy: Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Modern and Contemporary
- Electives that include Aesthetics, Logic and Philosophy of Religion
- Options for one-on-one independent studies
- Senior Seminar in Metaphysics or Epistemology
- Total of only 32 required credits for the major and 20 required credits for the minor

“Studying philosophy offers the greatest gift to the human mind: it enhances and trains your mind to think clearly and precisely. The thinking involved in studying philosophy as an undergraduate major has helped me in my life and career.”

- Dan Dematte '07

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY™

Program Overview

Philosophy at ODU prepares students to think critically about important questions in a way that is informed by the great minds of the Western philosophical tradition, including Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and René Descartes as well as more recent thinkers such as John Paul II. Questions we discuss include:

- What is happiness?
- What makes actions morally good or bad?
- What makes beliefs true or false?
- Are there objective standards of beauty?
- Are there good reasons to believe in God or life after death?

We also offer a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a Pre-Law Concentration, which is specifically designed to prepare students for law school.

Why ODU?

The Catholic and Dominican tradition values the intellectual life and sees Philosophy as a way to discover important truths. This view of Philosophy distinguishes ODU from schools that treat Philosophy merely as a tool for analyzing language or promoting a political agenda. At ODU, we see faith and reason as complementary, and believe that rigorous thinking in Philosophy helps students to understand their faith.

Every member of our Philosophy faculty has a strong background in the liberal arts and the history of Philosophy, especially the Catholic and Dominican intellectual tradition. The Philosophy faculty maintains a strong commitment to excellent teaching and scholarly research.

Career Possibilities

Philosophy students find both academic and non-academic jobs. According to *The New York Times Career Planner*, “It is important to stress a broad array of fundamental skills for the vast majority of students, rather than narrow vocational preparation...Philosophy is one fundamental area of study that has found a new role in the high-tech world.” Most employers do not require a specific major or minor. They look for people who can solve problems, think clearly, and speak and write articulately. Philosophy students fit that description well, as shown by their outstanding performance on standardized tests.

Philosophy majors have outscored all other recorded majors on both the verbal and analytical writing sections of the GRE, and have earned a higher-than-average score on the math section. They have outscored all other recorded majors except Math and Economics on the LSAT, and all other recorded majors except Math on the GMAT. Philosophy majors who apply to medical schools have a very high acceptance rate. In one year, they were accepted to medical schools at a higher rate than all other recorded majors.

On-Campus Opportunities

ODU has an active Philosophy Club for majors, minors and non-majors. Recent club events include barbecues, debates and movie nights.

For More Information About the Philosophy Program

Contact Dr. Michael Dougherty, Associate Professor of Philosophy, at dougherm@ohiodominican.edu to learn more about the Philosophy Program. For questions about the other programs, please contact your Academic Advisor or Admission Counselor at admissions@ohiodominican.edu.