Recommendations

B.A. Philosophy

To learn more about making the most of your educational experience within and beyond the classroom contact:
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PARTICIPATE

Community Service

Related course
PHIL 103--Ethics of Food

Sites/experiences
PHIL 321 Medical Ethics and PHIL 322 Environmental Ethics also have a strong orientation to community needs and issues. Majors have been active in Green Quad activities and volunteered for service on Martin Luther King Day and at other times.

Why this is important
The experience of service is excellent in itself. It has also prepared our students for after-graduation activities such as volunteering for the Peace Corps, working at NGOs, or preparing themselves for careers in areas such as environmental law.

Global Learning

Timing for “study abroad”
Sophomore or Junior years are excellent times to study abroad.

Destinations
No specific recommendations. A student with excellent knowledge of German studied philosophy in Germany. Students have also attended programs on the history and philosophy of science at Bielefeld, Germany. Students without foreign language skills have studied in England, particularly at Warwick.

Opportunities
The international student organization is very active on campus.

Why this is important
Study abroad is always a rewarding experience. This is particularly true when the opportunity is used to learn a foreign language well and to make friends in the country one is visiting.

Peer Leadership

Student Organization(s)
Philosophy Club

Why this is important
Leadership is of course important. Also important for keeping our organization going is the willingness to be a “first follower,” to support our club and help it continue in the future.

Internships

Related Courses
Students may take PHIL 399 or PHIL 598 as part of any internship.

Recommended sites/work experiences
State and local government offices, law firms, State political offices, local social work organizations.

Why this is important
Students can learn to bring their philosophical skills to bear on real-world challenges in a positive way, helping to prepare them for a career in which their philosophical training can be used to advantage.
Research

**Related courses**
PHIL 495 is a course specifically designed to develop and write a senior thesis. Students may also have the opportunity to take Independent Study courses (PHIL 399 and 598).

**Sample research projects or topics**
Magellan Grants in areas such as Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Science and Capability Theory regarding Justice. A Senior Thesis of one’s choice. Joint projects integrating philosophy with other areas of the sciences or the humanities.

**Why this is important**
Student research typically places a higher value on original thinking than other forms of student performance. It is a highly student-centered form of scholarly activity. We find that our mentoring of student research improves student engagement, greatly furthers academic development, and helps to prepare these researchers for post-graduate careers and graduate studies.

INTEGRATE

**How to integrate**
PHIL 490 is our capstone, integrative course. Students outside our major have on occasion taken the course out of personal interest in philosophy. And they have done well. Making progress in thinking, writing, and speaking about philosophical issues has helped our students in thinking and writing on other subjects as well. Double majoring is encouraged. And we think philosophy is an excellent option in this case, both for the present opportunities it affords and for the benefits it offers for a future career and even for a future change in career.

LEAD

**Initial career opportunities**
Philosophy majors find employment in a wide variety of fields, including law, politics, social work and social advocacy, think tanks, business and banking, and education, among others. Philosophy majors are well trained in exactly the areas that employers say are important -- clear thinking, ability to express oneself, ability to think creatively, and ability to adapt to new circumstances. These skills are valuable in many different jobs.

**Related graduate programs**
Philosophy majors outperform all other majors on the GMAT, LSAT, and GRE tests for admission to business school, law school, and graduate school. Philosophy majors succeed in all of these programs, and a few other more specialized programs (such as bioethics and public policy).

**Future career opportunities**
Philosophy trains one for a lifetime of careers. A 2008 study showed that philosophy majors outperformed all other majors in percentage salary increase over the first ten years of their career. Using the lifetime skills mentioned above, philosophers have been able to advance to a high level in many different fields.