Philosophy

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The Department of Philosophy offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, including courses on applied ethics, ethical theory, epistemology, logic, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, decision theory, political philosophy, non-Western philosophy, and the history of philosophy. The study of philosophy is not only fascinating in its own right but practical too, since it encourages the development of marketable intellectual abilities. These include the abilities to read, think, and write about conceptually complex and abstract material, and to construct and analyze elaborate chains of reasoning. Philosophy majors go on to pursue careers in such fields as law, medicine, business, the non-profit sector, the church, and academia.

The department offers BA, BS, MA, and PhD degrees in philosophy, as well as an undergraduate minor.

Faculty

Associate Professor A. Ariew**, C. S. Horisk**, P. Robbins**  
Assistant Professor K. Boyce*, M. Folescu*, A. Radulescu*  
Professor Emeritus A. von Schönborn*  
** Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.

** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

• BA in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/ba-philosophy)  
• BS in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/bs-philosophy)  
• Minor in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/minor-philosophy)

Double and Dual Majors

A philosophy major can be paired with a major in another department in the College of Arts and Science (double major) or in some other College (dual major). Students must meet the major requirements of both departments. The program for each department must be approved by the advisor for that department.

Departmental Honors

To earn a BA (or BS) with Departmental Honors in philosophy, a student must achieve at least a 3.3 GPA in all courses, and a 3.7 GPA in all philosophy courses; meet all the standard requirements for the regular philosophy BA (or BS); take PHIL 4998 Honors I in Philosophy, and PHIL 4999 Honors II in Philosophy, writing a satisfactory senior thesis normally of 3,000 to 9,000 words under the guidance of a faculty member who has consented to work with the student; and pass an oral examination on the thesis before a committee of three members of the philosophy faculty.

Graduate

• MA in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/ma-philosophy)  
• PhD in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/phd-philosophy)

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Director of Graduate Studies: André Ariew

About the Program

The Department of Philosophy provides excellent training in both research and teaching. The nationally and internationally renowned faculty have expertise in the core areas of philosophy, with particular strengths in epistemology, ethics, philosophy of mind, and political philosophy, and also in various specialties, including philosophy of biology, experimental philosophy, and the foundations of decision and game theory. With 13 full time faculty and around 25 graduate students, we offer a supportive community for pursuit of the MA and the PhD, with a broad range of courses, rigorous training, attentive, high-quality advising, the opportunity to develop a professional network through our series of colloquia and conferences, and help in every aspect of job seeking. We give students the advice and support they need to present their work at regional and national conferences, and to publish in professional journals, before they begin to look for jobs. We also give our students extensive training and experience in teaching, including assistantships with award-winning teachers.

Although we award an MA degree, we only admit students to our PhD program (with the MA obtained in the process). We receive about 50 applications per year and offer funding to about 10-15% of these. The normal ranges of scores for students we admit are: GRE Verbal 158-170, GRE Quantitative 147-166, and GPA in the major (normally philosophy) 3.9. Of course, our decisions are also based on the writing sample, letters of reference, and other factors, such as degree of fit with the Department.

Professional Development

Presentation of research at professional meetings and publication by graduate students is strongly encouraged. Prominent philosophers from other institutions visit the Department yearly for talks and symposia. Twice yearly, the Florence G. Kline endowment sponsors an intensive
workshop at which papers on a special topic are presented by several leading figures in philosophy.

Financial Aid from the Program

Fellowships and teaching assistantships are available to qualified students. Applications for fellowships must meet the Office of Graduate Studies deadlines, usually in January. Applications for teaching assistantships must meet the Department deadline of January 15.