Philosophy majors ask the big questions. The study of philosophy is the attempt to understand the world in as unified and general a way as possible. Philosophers want to know what there is, how are beliefs justified, how we should live, what is good, what is immoral, whether or not there is a God, and, especially, how all these things fit together.

One reason the study of philosophy is useful is that the methodology of philosophy is applicable to any subject matter whatsoever, since it involves careful reasoning, precise application of logic, and thorough analysis of concepts. In the Graduate Record Exam, those intending to major in philosophy perform better than students in all other fields by a wide margin. In the Verbal Reasoning section and in the Analytic Writing section of the GRE those intending to major in Philosophy did better than those in all other subjects. In the Quantitative Reasoning section those intending to major in Philosophy did better than all other non-scientists. Philosophy majors consistently do well in the Law School Aptitude Test and have a higher rate of acceptance at law schools than any other major.

Course Highlights in Philosophy:

- **PHIL 3200: Philosophy of Religion** - studies the arguments for and against the existence of God, and other related issues
- **PHIL 3250: Limits of Consciousness** - focuses on philosophical problems associated with psychology and neurology
- **PHIL 3130: Modern Philosophy** - examines classic works by Descartes, Locke, Hume and others

Knowledge & Skills Gained as a Philosophy Major:

- The study of philosophy develops skills in reasoning, analyzing, critically evaluating ideas and arguments.
- Philosophy studies the reasoning process itself
- Ethics is a subject within philosophy and philosophy students are taught how to reason about values
- Studying the history of philosophy is also essential to the understanding of the history of ideas and culture

Double Majoring with Philosophy:

Many students choose to combine their Philosophy major with another major on campus. If you plan your courses carefully, this can be done without adding time to graduation. When you double-major with Philosophy, you gain the critical and abstract thinking skills the Philosophy major is known for, but you also add an additional major, such as Economics, Neuroscience or Political Science, which can make you more marketable in the workplace.

Philosophy Major at a glance:

- **Number of majors:** 52
- **Degrees offered:** B.A.
- **Credit hours needed:** 33
- **Minors offered:** Yes
Career Opportunities:

By nature, Liberal Arts majors make great employees in any field because of their ability to communicate effectively, think critically and solve complex problems. These timeless skills make them attractive to employers in all walks of society. Specifically though, Philosophy majors often pursue careers in:

- Law
- Business
- Information technology
- Public administration
- Social services
- Health care
- Criminal justice
- Professor

When the Philosophy major is matched with complementary minors and thoughtful internships, new possibilities arise. A few examples are:

- Philosophy + Political Science minor + Law school = Attorney
- Philosophy + History + Museum internship = Museum curator/archivist/exhibit specialist
- Philosophy + Biology minor = Medical professional
- Philosophy + English + publishing internship = Writer/Publishing
- Philosophy + Anthropology = Archaeologist

Student Opportunities:

- The Philosophy Club - The philosophy club is a club run by students for students with the purpose of meeting to discuss philosophy.
- The Platonic Society - A student society that meets several times each semester to discuss philosophy issues.
- Philosophy Talks - Visiting speakers are brought in two or three times each semester to give talks of interest to students.

Did you know?

Studying Philosophy translates into skill sets that employers consider valuable. According to a 2016 study by Payscale.com, Philosophy majors had beginning starting salaries of $48,000 and median mid-career salaries of $90,000 - both higher than the average mid-career salary for business majors.

For more information:

For program information, contacts and course requirements visit:

www.unomaha.edu/philosophy/

Dr. William Melanson, Chair
wmelanson@unomaha.edu
402.554.2628