

Geneseo's Department of Philosophy is the largest philosophy department at any of the SUNY 4-year comprehensive colleges. On average, there are 4.1 full-time permanent Philosophy faculty members at those schools. At Geneseo, we are fortunate to have 7 full-time faculty members! There are many benefits of having a Department of this size:

- We keep class sizes small. For the 2019-2020 academic year, for example, the average class size for all 200- and 300-level PHIL classes was 23, with many classes under 20. This allows us to get to know each student and actively guide their development.
- We offer a very wide range of courses/topics. Our faculty currently have expertise in over 20 different areas of Philosophy—and in most of those areas, we have more than one faculty member with expertise.
- Students receive individual attention via directed studies and thesis supervision. Over the last five years, Philosophy faculty have supervised over 30 directed studies and theses.
- Students develop skills that today's employers consistently list as the most desirable: analytical skills, communication, leadership and collaboration, problem-solving. These are highly transferable skills, allowing for career success in a wide range of fields, over a lifetime.

Our major and minor programs combine rigorous expectations with the ability to customize your experience. Our major, for example, requires only 30 credit hours (10 courses)—although seven of these courses are required, the overall small size of the major leaves plenty of room to pursue other interests—whether in the form of a second major, a minor, or just a wide range of electives. This also allows students maximal freedom to study abroad or to pursue internships.

Major Requirements

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| PHIL 111 Introduction to Logic | 3 credit hours |
| PHIL 205 Ancient Philosophy | 3 credit hours |
| PHIL 207 Modern Philosophy | 3 credit hours |
| PHIL 330 Ethical Theory | 3 credit hours |
| PHIL 340 Theory of Knowledge | 3 credit hours |
| PHIL 355 Metaphysics | 3 credit hours |
| PHIL 397 or PHIL 398 Seminar | 3 credit hours |
| Electives in philosophy | 9 credit hours |

Recent Seminar Topics

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| Theories of Justice | Public Philosophy |
| Life, Afterlife & Meaning | Ancient Greek Perspectives on Laughter |
| Free Will | The Ethics of Speech |
| The Objects of Reference | Hume |
| Metaphysics & Politics of Persons | The Ethics & Politics of Family |

Graduate School

Our program is strong enough to get our students into several of the top graduate programs in Philosophy throughout the United States. Several of our recent alumni are pursuing or have received advanced degrees in Philosophy in programs at Berkeley, Columbia, Notre Dame, Duke, Illinois (Urbana- Champaign), Purdue, and Binghamton.

Spring 2020 Courses

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| PHIL 100 | Intro to Philosophy |
| PHIL 111 | R/Introduction to Logic |
| PHIL 130 | Ethics |
| PHIL 202 | M/World Religions & Cont Issues |
| PHIL 204 | Philosophy of Woman |
| PHIL 207 | Modern Philosophy |
| PHIL 214 | M/Chinese Philosophy |
| PHIL 217 | Problems in the Philosophy of Law |
| PHIL 219 | Social & Political Philosophy |
| PHIL 225 | Philosophy of the Arts |
| PHIL 235 | Philosophy of Biology |
| PHIL 237 | Ethical Issues in Business |
| PHIL 330 | Ethical Theory |
| PHIL 340 | Theory of Knowledge |
| PHIL 397 | Philosophy, Ethics & Social Justice |

What Our Recent Alumni Say About Our Programs

A recently-conducted survey of Philosophy alumni from 2011 and 2017 revealed the following:

- Nearly 96% report that their coursework in Philosophy challenged them intellectually, with 89% ranking the Philosophy Department “among the best” in terms of stimulation of intellect.
 - 87% report that their coursework in Philosophy gave them a complex understanding of themselves and of the world.
 - 89% report that their coursework in Philosophy has helped them in their post-graduate experiences.
 - “Gave me many transferable skills, including oral and written communication, analytical thinking, etc.”
 - “They helped develop my ability to read closely and deeply, to take criticism, and to disagree with people in a reasonable way.”
 - “Philosophy courses helped me develop a logical mindset and an attitude of intellectual humility, which I think have served me well both as a student in social science and as a person more generally.”
 - “The coursework taught me how to structure and think critically about arguments. This was useful when writing papers in other undergrad disciplines and has been extremely helpful in law school.”
 - “Philosophy courses at Geneseo helped to make me into a better, more responsible citizen in a pluralistic, democratic society.”
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What Some of Our Recent Alumni Are Doing

- “I’m in my third year at Cornell Law School and I recently accepted a job at the New York City Law Department.” Our alumni have great success in top law schools (including Cornell, Boston College, Duke, William & Mary, and UVA) and become successful attorneys.
 - “Head of Research and Content Team Manager for Manhattan based start up.” Several of our recent alumni work as accountants, investment bankers, and managers.
 - “Emergency Department Community Health Coordinator.” Several of our recent alumni work for governmental agencies (including FEMA), non-profit organizations, or educational institutions.
 - Several of our recent alumni are pursuing advanced degrees in fields outside of Philosophy, including data science, counseling, literary studies, forensic psychology, and medicine.
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Some National Statistics

- Philosophy Students rank FIRST in average GRE Verbal Reasoning score (159), FIRST in average GRE Analytical Writing Score (4.3), and FIRST in average GRE Quantitative Reasoning score (154) for fields outside of STEM and Business
- Philosophy Students rank FOURTH in average GMAT score (588)—higher than any business discipline
- Philosophy Students rank SECOND in average LSAT score (157.2) in fields with more than 2000 students taking the exam and have an excellent acceptance rate to law schools (83.0%)