

# GENESEO | Philosophacts | DEPARTMENT OF Philosophy

The faculty of Geneseo's Department of Philosophy is a group of dedicated teacher-scholars. We are open and friendly; we work with all students to enrich thought, understanding, and imagination.

- We keep class sizes small. For the 2021-2022 academic year, for example, the average class size for all 200-, 300-, and 400-level PHIL classes was 25, 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 full-time faculty currently have expertise in nearly 20 different areas of Philosophy—and in many 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 20 directed studies and theses, along with a considerable number of TA experiences.
- 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 program has a record of placement in 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, Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), Purdue, and Binghamton.

Our major and minor programs combine broad and deep coverage of many areas of Philosophy with the ability to customize your experience. Our major, for example, requires only 33 credit hours (11 courses), with lots of built-in flexibility to pursue individual interests. This 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.

Students have found that by electing philosophy as one of a pair of majors they can develop skills that will be invaluable throughout their careers. They learn to think, read, and write clearly, coherently, and critically. They learn to analyze and evaluate arguments. They learn the art of questioning, that is, how to inquire. Finally, they practice stepping out of a given framework when viewing a problem—many problems appear unsolvable only because the solver is uncritically committed to certain assumptions.

## PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy  
PHIL 111 Introduction to Logic  
One course in **HISTORY**  
One course in **VALUE\***  
One course in **CORE\***  
One course in **ALTERNATIVE VOICES**  
**SEMINAR: PHIL 497**  
Electives (12 credits)  
**TOTAL 33 Credits**

\*NOTE: at least one course in **VALUE** or **CORE** must be at the 400 level.

## COURSE TAGS: SCAN QR CODE FOR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **HISTORY:**

PHIL 300, PHIL 301

### **VALUE:**

PHIL 359, PHIL 377, PHIL 420, PHIL 430

### **CORE:**

PHIL 350, PHIL 357, PHIL 362, PHIL 375, PHIL 440, PHIL 445

### **ALTERNATIVE VOICES:**

PHIL 202, PHIL 204, PHIL 208, PHIL 215, PHIL 315

### **RESEARCH/CAPSTONE:**

PHIL 493, PHIL 497



## PHILOSOPHY MINOR

PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy  
One **RESEARCH** course  
Electives (12 credits)  
**TOTAL 18 Credits**

## RECENT SEMINARS

The Ethics of Speech  
Phil & Conspiracy Theories  
The Ethics & Politics of Family

Islamic Political Philosophy  
Public Philosophy  
Free Will

Are you eager to apply what you learn in the classroom to solve problems in society? Do you aspire to be a community activist, an advocate for justice, a positive leader in the corporate world, or a game-changing lawyer? The **MINOR IN ETHICS & VALUES IN SOCIETY** can help you do meaningful work to improve your community and your own life. Scan QR Code for more information about this exciting program.



## What Our Recent Alumni Say About Our Programs

A recently-conducted survey of Philosophy alumni from 2011 through 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.”

---

## 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.

---

## Some National Statistics

Historically, students who major in Philosophy do extremely well on the kinds of standardized tests used for admissions to graduate and professional schools. According to recent data:

- 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%)