

MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY



Undergraduate

MAJOR



PHILOSOPHY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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philosophy.colostate.edu (<https://philosophy.colostate.edu/>)

Philosophy is at the very heart of a liberal arts education and is the foundation of every field. Students of philosophy learn how to think deeply and clearly, ask questions, solve problems, and collaboratively dialogue across diverse viewpoints. Philosophy students apply these skills and methods to investigate the most fundamental moral, legal, aesthetic, religious, scientific, epistemological, and metaphysical ideas. Because they apply to any area, the skills of philosophy are essential for a wide variety of career paths, including law, publishing, tech, policy, education, and business. Through critical examination of the foundations of humanity and knowledge, philosophy students are better able to understand the world and our place in it. We can't wait to explore these fundamental questions with you as you work through your major in Philosophy!

Philosophy Skills

- Critical thinking and analysis
- Problem solving
- Exploring different perspectives
- Connection making
- Insightful and thoughtful dialogue
- Attention to ethical concerns
- Developing logical arguments
- Conceptual clarity
- Close and careful reading and reasoning

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this program, students will have skills in the following areas:

1. **Critical & Creative Problem-Solving:** Students will apply critical and creative thinking to analyze and evaluate arguments and generate innovative approaches to complex questions. By identifying assumptions, navigating ambiguities, considering alternative viewpoints, and addressing counterarguments, they will develop flexible problem-solving skills applicable to multiple contexts.

2. **Philosophical Inquiry:** Students will gain broad understanding of philosophy by engaging with questions about truth, reality, knowledge, justice, and the good life. Through the study of major questions, debates, and figures in various philosophical traditions, students will explore the complex histories and cultural contexts from which these ideas emerge and how they connect to their own heritage as well as broader human concerns and experiences.
3. **Reading, Research, and Analysis:** Students will develop the interpretive and analytical skills needed to read and understand complex texts. They will critically evaluate the quality, relevance, and credibility of diverse sources and integrate them thoughtfully in their own research and writing. In doing so, they will generate and defend original ideas, advancing knowledge and contributing to broader conversations about humanity's shared challenges.
4. **Communication & Dialogue:** Students will communicate effectively in writing and speech, expressing ideas and arguments with clarity, coherence, and originality. They will engage in constructive, respectful dialogue that demonstrates openness to various perspectives, collaborative problem-solving, and reciprocal learning—building shared understanding and collective wisdom, allowing them to more effectively engage in civic life.
5. **Ethical Reasoning and Civic Responsibility:** Students will develop ethical reasoning skills by exploring frameworks for understanding values, meaning, and responsibility. They will apply these skills to pressing social issues, such as sustainability, social well-being, and civic engagement. By reflecting on their own assumptions and considering alternative perspectives, students cultivate ethical awareness, deepen their understanding of both their own and others' values and heritages, and prepare to contribute thoughtfully and responsibly to resilient communities and democratic processes.

Career Paths: What can you do with a degree in Philosophy?

Anything! Our graduates have incorporated their philosophy degrees and training into rewarding and impactful careers around the world. A degree in philosophy equips you with specific skills relevant across many career paths, from law, business, IT, and government to education, publishing, and non-profit management. Since they are relevant to any career path, the skills of philosophy are widely applicable and highly marketable to employers. Plus, Philosophy grads tend to earn more over their lifetimes than any other humanities majors, AND they have the highest starting salaries and biggest salary increases too! Philosophy majors also outperform other majors on graduate school admission like the GRE, LSAT, and GMAT.

Change of Major

To change your major to Philosophy, you can either call the College of Liberal Arts Academic Advising Center (<https://advising.libarts.colostate.edu/>) at 970-491-3117, or send them an email (cla_advising@colostate.edu).

Concentrations

Students are no longer being admitted into the following concentrations, which have been consolidated into the Major in Philosophy (see the "Requirements" and "Major Completion Map" tabs above for the new program of study effective Fall 2026)

- General Philosophy Concentration (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/liberal-arts/philosophy/philosophy-major-general-concentration/>)
- Global Philosophies and Religions Concentration (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/liberal-arts/philosophy/philosophy-major-global-philosophies-religions-concentration/>)
- Philosophy, Science, and Technology Concentration (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/liberal-arts/philosophy/philosophy-major-science-technology-concentration/>)