

Philosophy

MAJOR MAP

How to use the map

This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within 4 years. The introductory sections will help orient you to the “big picture” ideas like the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the kinds of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your 4 years at East Carolina University and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

Remember, it is important that you diversify your experiences, both for success in your degree program and for success outside of school. While coursework is critically important, it should not be your only focus. The chart below will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Remember to speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.



Questions?

East Carolina University offers an array of support to help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. New Student Orientation, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Philosophy



ABOUT THE MAJOR

Philosophy is the scholarly study of the fundamental nature of reality (of what is and is not possible - metaphysics), of how people can know what is true or false (of knowledge - epistemology), of the nature of value (of all forms of value - axiology), and of good and bad reasoning (logic).

Students can do a pre-law concentration that prepares them for law school. It is unique in its focus on valid, sound, non-fallacious argumentation (matters not addressed by other disciplines). The reasoning skills students develop by studying philosophy put them in the top 10% on the LSAT.

DEGREE OPTIONS

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Department offers a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. Students can choose a Pre-Law concentration.

To earn a BA in Philosophy, you must complete course work within the major in addition to meeting additional requirements. Your total degree work will include:

The department is unique in that it offers directed readings/research courses where students receive one-on-one instruction from faculty in topics of special interest to the student. The Department makes these courses available on request. Students benefit from one-on-one interaction with a member of the faculty in conducting research and writing on a special topic. This is especially valuable for students who are interested in graduate work where this sort of instruction becomes more common, e.g., when writing a doctoral dissertation.

- 40 semester hours of general education
- 30 semester hours of philosophy courses
- 12 semester hours of a foreign language
- 12 semester hours of upper division (3000 - 4000) course work
- Minor
- Electives
- A minimum of 120 total semester hours



ADMISSIONS INFO

You can apply to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website at www.ecu.edu/admissions. To be considered for admission, freshmen applicants will submit their high school transcript and standardized test scores. Transfer applicants will submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Application deadlines and specific admissions requirements for freshmen and transfer applicants are listed on the website.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

The major offers a number of exciting courses. Some of these include:

- PHIL 1110: Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 1175: Introduction to Ethics
- PHIL 1180: Introduction to Critical Reasoning
- PHIL 1290: Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion
- PHIL 1500: Introduction to logic
- PHIL 2261: Introduction to the Philosophy of Science
- PHIL 2280: Introduction to the Philosophy of Sport
- PHIL 2282: Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 3255: Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL 3260: Epistemology
- PHIL 4250: Metaphysics
- PHIL 4270: Ethics
- PHIL 4276: Social and Political Philosophy

WHY PHILOSOPHY?

The philosophy BA program guides the development of each major and provides opportunities for majors to present their work at public sessions and submit their work for publication while working with a faculty member. Additionally, the program hosts visiting speakers regularly. Majors attend their presentations and interact with them.

WORKPLACE SUCCESS

What employers want

With your Philosophy major, you will pursue a career that requires specific skills and experiences. These might include the ability to:

1. Identify key assumptions behind claims being made;
2. Critique the assumptions behind both claims and problem solving procedures;
3. Identify logical fallacies and avoid committing same;
4. Identify formal fallacies and avoid committing same;
5. Comprehend and relate both the big picture and the details;
6. Discourse persuasively both verbally and in writing.

Keep in mind that one your goals at East Carolina is preparing yourself to be marketable in your chosen career field. Taking advantage of the opportunities that are available to you outside of the classroom can help you to grow as a student and emerging professional.

WHAT CAN I LEARN?

While completing your Philosophy major, you can expect to learn:

- The history of the fundamental concepts that ground Western civilization;
- The strengths and weaknesses of the fundamental concepts that ground Western civilization;
- How to critique the fundamental concepts that ground Western civilization;
- Why the values of the fundamental concepts that shape and ground Western civilization are not relative to a specific culture;
- How to prove that the value of the fundamental concepts that shape and ground Western civilization are not relative to specific culture and are discovered through secular discourse.



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Philosophy MAJOR MAP

DEGREE INFORMATION



FIRST YEAR >>>

SECOND YEAR >>>

THIRD YEAR >>>

FOURTH YEAR >>>

POST-GRAD OPTIONS

THE COURSES YOU NEED

Begin working on general education requirements and foreign language courses. These might include: ENGL 1100; PHIL 1110 & 1175; Science & lab; Foreign Language 1002; HLTH 1000; Social Science; Humanities/Fine Arts; MATH 1050

Continue to work on your general education requirements. These might include: ENGL 2201; PHIL 1180/1500; Foreign Language 2004; Science 2003; Social Science (6); PHIL elective; minor course; Humanities/Fine Arts

Can start to include electives and minor courses. PHIL elective (9); minor course (9); Humanities/Fine Arts; Social Science; General elective; KINE 1000

Complete 4 more PHIL electives above 2999; Three minor courses (9); Three General electives

Students who graduate with a degree in Philosophy have a variety of career options. Some of these include:

- Philosophy professor (requires graduate degree)
- Attorney
- Chief Operating Officer of a major corporation
- President or vice president of a major corporation
- Human Resources Specialist
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Game show host
- General rank officer in one of the four military services
- News Anchor
- Network Systems Analyst
- Market Research Analyst
- Stock Broker
- Film Actor/Actress
- Journalist

GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Explore your major and career options in consultation with your advisor. By taking classes like PHIL 2274/2275/3281 you gain competence in formal logic, critical thinking, interpretation of technical writing and the development of normative judgement.

Meet with [Career Services](#) often to work on your post-graduation plans. Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so you can address them early. Use the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), [USAJobs.gov](#), and/or other resources available through [Career Services](#) to identify common skills in your career field.

Internships, part-time jobs, student leadership positions, and volunteer or community engagement activities can help build your résumé and give you valuable experience. Connect directly with faculty members who share your interests to explore your opportunities, network, and identify future goals.

Volunteering for political, governmental, or social organizations is a great way to get experience in your field, build your résumé, test your interest in working with diverse populations, and develop your professional network. During your final year you should also participate in ECU's [Research and Creative Achievement Week](#).

VISIT US ONLINE

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit: www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/phil/

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Emails from the department will let you know about upcoming guest lectures, internship opportunities, and special events. Keep up with the department social calendar to attend events such as guest lectures hosted by the department with lively discussions.

Join student organizations that suit your interests, which may include the [Philosophy Club](#) where students examine various philosophical topics with other students. For a full list of student organizations, visit [OrgSync](#).

Connect with the [Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement](#) to explore local opportunities and join [Orgsync](#). To build your professional network, join a professional organization like The North Carolina Philosophical Society and [The American Philosophical Associations](#).

Submit a proposal to present a polished research paper from one of your classes at a number of conferences including: Undergraduate Ethics Symposium, Pacific Univ. Undergraduate Phil. Conference; Georgia State Student Phil. Symposium or an undergraduate Phil. journal such as *Aporia* or *The Dualist*.

THINK GLOBALLY

Being internationally aware and culturally competent is increasingly important. You can build skills in any Philosophy course as they are not culture-specific and address global concepts, distinctions and theories.

Integrate internationally-oriented classes into your electives and consider a minor or second major in an international field or foreign language such as Spanish, German, French, Italian or Russian. Consider a Summer or semester-long study abroad program. Apply for study abroad scholarships in the early Fall.

Make the most of your return from your study abroad or internship program by becoming more active in your student organizations. Work with the [Office of Global Affairs](#) and the [Career Center](#) to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to improve your job placement possibilities.

Take on a leadership position in one of your globally-oriented student organizations. Consider participating in the Cologne Summer School in Philosophy at the University of Cologne in Cologne Germany in a week long research seminar led by a famous philosopher.

CAREER PREPAREDNESS

Visit [Career Services](#) to learn about their resources. Check out the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Virtual Job Shadow](#) to explore potential careers. Log in to [Handshake](#) to set up your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities.

Meet with your Career Counselor to explore your goals and develop your résumé. Attend career fairs and other employer-related activities. Speak to your instructors and advisors about career options often and work with them to find internship opportunities.

Develop your [LinkedIn](#) profile. Meet with your Career Counselor to discuss postgraduation plans. If needed, research graduate schools and program requirements. Continue to attend career fairs and other employer-related career events.

Meet with your Career Counselor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Refine your résumé, [LinkedIn](#) profile, and interview skills. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey.



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR

CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP