PHILOSOPHY

In Fordham's liberal arts tradition, philosophy has a special role in the development of the mature individual. Philosophy provides students the opportunity to reflect on the most fundamental questions that concern human beings and the ultimate dimensions of their world. The courses in philosophy acquaint students with the intellectual and moral traditions of their civilization and aim to develop in the student the skills necessary to think clearly and carefully for themselves—to question their assumptions and to judge their principles critically with the depth required for them to act as mature, integrated, free persons in their society and to provide it with enlightened, responsible leadership and service.

The major in philosophy is an excellent preparation for graduate school, for professional schools of law, medicine, education, and the ministry, as well as for positions in industry, government, and business in which a liberal arts degree is welcomed.

Accelerated Master's Program

Please read the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Accelerated Master's Programs section of this bulletin for more information. The policy on early admissions to the M.A. program in philosophy allows academically strong philosophy majors presently enrolled in FCRH, FCLC, and PCS to attain a master's degree in philosophy in one year after graduating with a B.A. degree. Philosophy majors who have a cumulative 3.2 overall grade point average or above and at least a 3.5 in philosophy after five semesters of work in their college are eligible to apply for early admission to the M.A. program. After grades for the fall semester (junior year) have been posted and before registration for fall semester (senior year) begins, students who qualify will receive a description of the program and an invitation to apply from the chair or associate chair of the department.

There are several advantages from the undergraduate perspective in the early admissions policy. The GRE is waived, but becomes necessary if the student applies for the doctoral program. Courses on the graduate level begin before completing the B.A., enriching the undergraduate experience and serving to distinguish graduation transcripts. Students admitted early receive financial aid to a certain extent, since by double-counting three graduate courses, the M.A. total tuition bill is less than it would have been otherwise.

In the spring semester of junior year, students will be required to formally indicate the desire to matriculate in the accelerated M.A. program by filling out an online application (application fee waived) and submitting it to the Graduate Office of Admission along with two letters of recommendation. Applicants will be interviewed by the chair or associate chair for graduate studies. The application will be reviewed by the department's admissions committee, which will make a recommendation regarding admission to the chair, and the department's recommendation will be forwarded to the graduate school for final action.

Students admitted into the program will take three 5000-level graduate courses in their senior year. The graduate courses count toward both the completion of the B.A. degree and M.A. degree. Students will participate in the normal B.A. graduation ceremonies in May following their senior year. If seven graduate courses at the 5000-level or above are taken in the fifth year, the student will have a total of 10 graduate courses enabling completion of coursework for the M.A. in May of the fifth year. Students consult with the director of graduate studies to design a program of study for their senior year and for the fifth year. Students must fulfill the normal requirements for the M.A. degree.

Program Activities

The department sponsors an annual lecture series that brings distinguished philosophers from around the world to campus. The University has a chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the national honor society in philosophy.

For more information

Visit the Philosophy department web page.

Contribution to the Core

All first-year students take the core course PHIL 1000 Philosophy of Human Nature. The core course PHIL 3000 Philosophical Ethics is taken by all students in sophomore or junior year. Selected sections of these two courses are designated EP1 and EP3, respectively. The department also offers Values Seminar/EP4 core courses as well as American Pluralism and Global Studies courses, and interdisciplinary capstone courses.

Programs

- Philosophy Major
- Philosophy Minor