

# Bachelor of Arts

## BA with a Philosophy Major

### Why major in Philosophy at CMU?

Philosophy, in its traditional sense, is understood as the love of wisdom. In its modern form, philosophy is a search for general theoretical explanations in an attempt to answer questions such as: What is real? What can I know? What should I do?

Philosophy at CMU – while it explores aspects related to each of the above questions– also involves the ongoing task of rethinking the idea of philosophy itself. In particular, it investigates the philosopher’s desire for explanations, and seeks to explore philosophies as ways of life. Of special interest is how all of this relates to that peculiar way of life called church. Such an inquiry will approach philosophy historically and contextually rather than as a series of answers to abstract theoretical questions, which suggests that philosophy is best understood in its traditional sense as the love of wisdom.

### Program Strengths

Studies in Philosophy will equip students with skills essential for many pursuits, including careers in post-secondary education, law, government, policy-making, and administration. These skills can be developed through practicum placements, in which students connect their classroom learning to hands-on, work experiences.

Studying at CMU means that students are learning alongside their professors. Many classes are seminar style, so students explore new ideas and challenging questions in conversation with their peers and professors. Additionally, mentorship relationships between faculty and students help students to achieve academic and professional success.

### Career Paths

- Research assistant
- Counsellor
- Author
- Professor
- Lawyer
- Consultant
- Public policy analyst
- Ethics researcher
- Volunteer coordinator
- Community organizer
- Lobbyist
- Editor
- Teacher
- Archival assistant
- Minister
- Legislative aid

### Skills Developed

- Formulate, debate and defend ideas with clarity and thoroughness
- Reason analytically and deductively
- Analyze cause and effect
- Criticize and revise one’s thought process or idea
- Appreciate others’ perspectives
- Summarize complicated material
- Solve problems effectively
- Endure in concentration for reading lengthy selections of in-depth material
- Communicate orally and in writing
- Research
- Manage time
- Organize systems
- Work independently and meet deadlines

## Philosophy Programs

CMU offers programs in Philosophy including:

- Philosophy major within the four-year Bachelor of Art
- Philosophy major within the three-year Bachelor of Arts
- Philosophy minor within the Bachelor of Arts

## CMU Courses in the Philosophy Program

- The Task of Philosophy – The Question of Reality
- The Task of Philosophy – The Question of Knowledge
- Postmodern Philosophy
- Aquinas and Wittgenstein – Language, Reality and God
- An Introduction to Metaphysics – What is Nature?
- Hegel and Kierkegaard – Subjectivity, System and Paradox
- Business Ethics
- The Ethics of Love
- Philosophical Investigations on Death and Dying
- The Self and its Sources
- Social and Political Philosophy
- Philosophy and Mathematics
- Existentialism
- Introductory Logic
- Ethical Living in a Technological Society
- Dante – *The Divine Comedy*
- Being in the World – Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty
- Whose Violence? Which Peace?
- Paul and the Philosophers
- The Gift – Philosophical and Theological Investigations

Course descriptions can be found on the CMU website. Contact the admissions department with further questions.

In addition to specific Philosophy courses, students will take classes in the humanities, sciences, social sciences and courses in Biblical and Theological Studies as part of the degree.

A work-integrated learning course is required in every degree at CMU. This practicum can be done as an intensive 12-week placement or a once-a-week placement over 20 weeks during the school year. The work placement can help students explore the field they are majoring in for career possibilities or it can provide a way to expand their experiences in a field they haven't thought about before.