



Philosophers ask difficult questions about issues that are central to human existence: What is a meaningful life? What is the relationship between mind and body? How can one distinguish between right and wrong actions? Are there reasons to think that God exists? By studying philosophy, you'll meet and converse with some of the greatest minds of history. You'll learn to think critically, read carefully, and analyze arguments-- in short, you'll acquire the skills to make a living. But, more importantly, you'll learn what makes life *worth* living.

This is the place.

New Orleans has many expanding business sectors that require, above all other skills, logical and ethical thinking. Every business needs somebody in the boardroom who can step back and dissect a problem into its component parts—and that's something a philosophy major can do. Our city also has always attracted thinkers because of its openness to high culture. We have modern art galleries, the Marigny opera house, and experimental restaurants. New Orleans is the perfect place to apply philosophy and reflect on Plato, Nietzsche, and Sartre at the end of your day.

Put philosophy into action! If you enjoy working with children, join our Philosophy Kids program, where you will engage primary school students from historically under-served areas with philosophical themes taken from children's literature. If you like to debate contemporary moral issues, sign up for our Ethics Bowl team to compete against students from across the country. If you want to develop your own ideas about a philosophical problem, take on a senior thesis project, and you can graduate with honors in philosophy.

Courses

Our program will give you a broad training in the central areas of philosophy. In the systematic sequence, you'll take courses in logic, ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology, and in the historical sequence, you will study the great thinkers in ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophy. Here's a sample of what you can expect to learn and do:

Ethics

This course is an historical and issue-based investigation of traditional ethical theories and texts. We focus on teleological and deontological theories, as well as virtue ethics. We also examine questions in applied ethics such as abortion, capital punishment, and freedom of speech. Readings include classical sources as well as contemporary voices that represent a variety of social backgrounds.

Minds and Machines

Have you ever wondered about the nature of the mind, mental events, and consciousness? In this course we explore these topics and examine the traditional mind-body problem, i.e., the relationship of the mind to the physical body, particularly the brain. We also address more contemporary issues in artificial intelligence, behaviorism, and functionalism.

Being and God

We examine in this course the nature of being and the existence of God from the standpoint of Catholic philosophical tradition. We study topics such as the structure of finite being, the transcendental, analogy and univocity of being, metaphysical causality, and the problem of creation.