PHILOSOPHY

The Value of Philosophy

Philosophy students acquire knowledge and skills that can apply to a wide range of fields. Among these are critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills, decision-making skills, the ability to communicate effectively and to make ethical judgements, and the ability to apply knowledge and skills to real-world settings. Philosophy places the greatest value on demonstrated proficiency that cuts across all majors. As a result philosophy graduates achieve long-term career success.

Career Paths

Philosophy graduates often continue their education in graduate, law, or medical programs, or obtain positions in wide variety of fields, including education, publishing, marketing, consulting, government, environmental management, public administration, foreign services, law and law enforcement, human resources, insurance, libraries, and religious or social service areas.

Admission

For students enrolled at the University of Akron and for students wishing to transfer directly to Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences from their institutions, the following criteria must be satisfied for admission to the Department of Philosophy.

- The student must be admissible to Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
- A minimum grade point average of 2.00 must be met in all university work, including transfer credits
- A minimum grade point average of 2.00 must be met in all work in Philosophy, including university and transfer credits. Only credits earned at an accredited institution of post-secondary education, as recognized by The University of Akron, will be considered for transfer credit, and only those grades will be considered in the grade point average.

Philosophy Programs

- Artificial Intelligence, Certificate (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/artificial-intelligence-certificate/)
- Bioethics, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/bioethics-minor/)
- Environmental Ethics, Certificate (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/environmental-ethics-certificate/)
- Environmental Ethics, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/environmental-ethics-minor/)
- Ethics, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ethics-minor/)
- General Philosophy, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/general-philosophy-minor/)
- Philosophy of Religions, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-religions-minor/)
- Philosophy of Science and Religion, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-science-religion-minor/)
- Philosophy of Science, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-science-minor/)
- Philosophy, BA (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba/)
- Philosophy/JD Degree Accelerated, BA (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-jd-degree-accelerated-ba/)
- Police Ethics, Certificate (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/police-ethics-certificate/)
- Pre-Law Philosophy, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-pre-law-minor/)

Interdisciplinary Programs

- Social Science, Divisional PPE Track, BA (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-programs/social-science-divisional-ppe-track-ba/)
- Social Sciences, Divisional PSP Track, BA (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-programs/social-sciences-divisional-psp-track-ba/)

Philosophy (3600)

3600:101 Introduction to Philosophy (3 Credits)
Introduction to the methods of philosophy, important leading thinkers, and topics such as free will, consciousness, goodness, truth, and beauty. 
Gen Ed: Tier 2 - Humanities; Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3600:120 Introduction to Ethics (3 Credits)
Introduction to problems of moral conduct through readings from the tradition and class discussions; nature of ‘good,’ ‘right,’ ‘ought’ and ‘freedom’.
Gen Ed: Tier 2 - Humanities; Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3600:125 Theory & Evidence (3 Credits)
An investigation of the concept of evidence and the criteria for the evaluation of theories in various areas of study, including natural sciences, social sciences, and philosophy. The role of scientific information in the formation and justification of value judgments.
Gen Ed: Tier 2 - Humanities; Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3600:150 Critical Thinking (3 Credits)
Examination of good and bad reasoning patterns. Topics may include rational and persuasive arguments, deductive and inductive inference, causal and basic statistical inference, logical fallacies, and moral arguments.
Gen Ed: Tier 2 - Humanities; Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3600:170 Introduction to Logic (3 Credits)
Introduction to logic and critical thinking. Includes such topics as meaning, informal fallacies, propositional logic, predicate and syllogistic logic and nature of induction.
Gen Ed: Tier 2 - Humanities; Tier 3 - Critical Thinking
3600:200 Philosophy of World Religions (3 Credits)
A philosophical examination of the major religious traditions of the world including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, tribal religions, and others.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Global Diversity

3600:207 Food Ethics (3 Credits)
Considers ethical questions about food choices and policies, what individuals eat, and what actions society ought to take regarding food growth, processing, marketing, selling, and consumption.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Complex Systems

3600:210 Logic for Lawyers (3 Credits)
An introduction to applied deductive and inductive logic reasoning skills, concentrating on applications to reasoning in legal contexts, e.g., courtroom argumentation and jury deliberations.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3600:211 History of Ancient Philosophy (3 Credits)
History and development of ancient Greek philosophy including Presocratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Hellenistic philosophers. Readings of primary sources in translation.
Gen Ed: Tier 2 - Humanities; Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3600:212 History of Medieval Philosophy (3 Credits)
History of Western philosophy from end of Roman Empire to Renaissance. Major philosophers studied include St. Augustine, St. Anselm, Peter Abelard, St. Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus and William of Ockham. Readings from primary sources.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3600:213 History of Modern Philosophy (3 Credits)
Analysis of major philosophical issues of 17th and 18th Centuries from Descartes through Kant. Readings of primary sources in translation.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Complex Systems

3600:232 Advanced Topics in Ethics (3 Credits)
(May be repeated with change of topic for a total of nine credits). An examination of selected topics in applied ethics and ethical theory, such as the ethics of cloning, evolutionary ethics, history of ethics and ethical issues from the Human Genome Project. Specific topics will be announced in the course schedule.

3600:240 Philosophy of Mind (3 Credits)
An examination of the normative justification of social and political institutions and practices. Analysis of concepts such as rights, justice, equality, and political obligation from historical as well as contemporary points of view. Application to particular social issues covered.

3600:241 Social & Political Philosophy (3 Credits)
Nature of law examined from the perspective of the law's alleged obligation to be ethical and promote justice.

3600:242 Philosophy of International Law (3 Credits)
Inquiry into the theories of utility of international law and the philosophical controversies surround them, e.g., international legal norms vs. international relations.

3600:243 Philosophy of Religion (3 Credits)
Discussion and analysis of problems of theology, nature of religious experience, God's nature, existence, immortality, sin, faith, reason, holy revelation, and redemption.

3600:244 Philosophy of Science and Religion (3 Credits)
Survey of conflict, independence, and integration models of science and religion. Topics include: origin and nature of the universe, life, mind, value, meaning, science, religion.

3600:340 Eastern Philosophy (3 Credits)
Examination and evaluation of philosophical traditions from India, China and Japan, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Global Diversity

3600:350 Philosophy of Art (3 Credits)
An examination of theories of the nature of art and the grounds of aesthetic evaluation. Analysis of such concepts as representation, form, content, expression, institution, convention, meaning and truth as they apply in the context of the arts.

3600:361 Biomedical Ethics (3 Credits)
The identification, analysis and evaluation of ethical issues arising most critically in the biomedical setting, e.g., abortion, termination of treatment, definition of death, IVF, AIDS.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Complex Systems

3600:362 Business Ethics (3 Credits)
Basic moral theories, moral principles, and the decision-making process applied to issues in business.

3600:363 Police Ethics (3 Credits)
Basic moral concepts and their application to the criminal justice system. Concerned with such issues as punishment, the use of force, and conflict resolution.

3600:364 Digital Ethics (3 Credits)
A critical examination of ethical issues arising in connection with digital technology, e.g., data privacy and use, artificial intelligence, censorship, and social media.

3600:365 Environmental Ethics (3 Credits)
Examination of the moral relationships among human beings, other species, and their shared environment. Ethical aspects of agriculture, global warming, extinction, and wilderness.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Complex Systems

3600:366 Engineering Ethics (3 Credits)
Addresses the specific ethical issues and problems that arise in the practice and study of engineering as a discipline.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Complex Systems

3600:372 Symbolic Logic (3 Credits)
Systematic study of various forms of deduction. Techniques and topics include truth-functional analysis and quantification.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3600:392 Internship in Philosophy (1-3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.7 or greater. Placement in appropriate public or private sector organization. Written assignments required. May repeat for maximum 6 credits.

3600:411 Plato (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of C or higher. Detailed study of the origin and development of Plato's theory of forms and the related theories of knowledge, ethics and politics.

3600:414 Aquinas (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of 'C' or higher. An in depth examination of the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas covering his contributions in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political theory, and philosophical theology.
3600:415 Augustine (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of ‘C’ or higher. An in depth examination of the philosophy of St. Augustine covering his contributions in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political theory, and philosophical theology.

3600:418 20th Century Analytic Philosophy (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of ‘C’ or higher. Study of ideal and ordinary language movements in 20th century British and American philosophy. Deals with such figures as Russell, Carnap, Ayer, Moore, Wittgenstein, Ryle and Austen.

3600:421 Philosophy of Law (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of ‘C’ or higher. Identification and critical evaluation of classic and contemporary theories and assumptions of law, including legal reasoning, justice, natural law, punishment, etc.

3600:424 Existentialism (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of C or higher, or permission of instructor. In-depth inquiry into the thought of Kierkegaard, Jaspers, Heidegger, Sartre, Tillich and other existentialists with their concern for the human condition.

3600:426 Phenomenology (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of C or higher, or permission. Inquiry into methodology of Husserl and Heidegger and their influence upon Western European and American thought.

3600:432 Aristotle (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of C or higher. Detailed study of Aristotle's metaphysics, philosophy of nature, philosophy of mankind and ethics.

3600:434 Kant (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of C or higher. Study of Kantian system of thought and its relation to history of philosophy. Includes thorough investigation of one or more of Kant’s philosophic works.

3600:455 Philosophy of Feminism (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: One course in philosophy with a grade of C or better, or permission of instructor. Introduction to feminist critiques of, and alternatives to, traditional western philosophy, including topics in ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and religion.

Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Domestic Diversity

3600:461 Neuroethics (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of C or higher. Discussion and evaluation of contemporary theories of moral agency arising from developments in neuroscience.

3600:462 Theory of Knowledge (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of ‘C’ or higher. Examination of nature of knowledge; theories of perception, conception and truth, problem of induction and relation of language to knowledge.

3600:464 Philosophy of Science (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of ‘C’ or higher. Nature of scientific inquiry, types of explanation, laws and causality, theoretical concepts and reality. Also considers critics of hypothetico-deductive view of science, e.g., Hanson and Kuhn.

3600:471 Metaphysics (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of ‘C’ or higher. Theories about ultimate nature and ultimate explanation of reality. Uses readings from classical and contemporary sources.

3600:480 Seminar in Philosophy (3 Credits)
(May be repeated, for additional credit, with change of topic).
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of ‘C’ or higher. Varying philosophical topics not covered in regular course offerings.

3600:481 Philosophy of Language (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of one course in philosophy with a grade of C or higher. An examination of contemporary debates in the philosophy of language and various influential views on meaning, reference, truth, and the content of belief.

3600:490 Senior Honors Project in Philosophy (1-3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Senior standing in Honors Program or senior honors standing as Philosophy major, and permission of Philosophy Department Honors Preceptor. Research leading to completion of senior honors thesis involving original work under faculty supervision. A maximum of 3 credit hours can be applied towards a philosophy major or minor. (May be repeated for 1-3 credits for a maximum of 6 credits)

3600:497 Individual Study in Philosophy (1-3 Credits)
(May be repeated for a total of six credits) Prerequisites: 3600:101, 3600:120, 3600:170, 3600:211, 3600:312, and 3600:313. Directed independent study of philosopher, philosophy or philosophical problem under guidance of selected faculty member. Subject matter determined by selected faculty member in consultation with student. Graduate credit requires significant additional work which may include additional research paper.