Hello! Whether you are already a philosophy major or minor, or just considering the possibility of becoming one, this is the right place to learn about how to be successful in our program (and afterwards).

We faculty want you to have the best possible experience, so we have put together lots of advice and resources to support you. Of course, we also welcome your ideas about how we can make this guide more useful, so if you have thoughts about that, please don’t hesitate to share them with us!

Ball State University
Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies
North Quad 204
2000 W University
Muncie, IN 47306

765-285-1244
philrelst@bsu.edu
TOP FOUR MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What classes are being offered next semester?

   Short answer: Talk to us to find out!!

   Longer answer: We offer multiple sections of multiple Tier 1 and Tier 2 courses every semester, many of which are writing intensive courses. We also offer 3 or 4 upper level courses each semester; these are offered on a roughly 2-year rotation, though what gets offered when is always in flux (hence the need to talk to us to get the most up-to-date information). We email a list of courses to all majors about ten days before each registration period.

2. How can I get more philosophy?

   There are tons of opportunities to do more philosophy in our department – click the link to go straight to them!

3. How can I succeed after I graduate with a degree in philosophy?

   Great question! We’ve got some useful information about success after graduation – click the link to skip ahead.

4. Who should I contact with questions? What is the right email?

   Department Chair: David W. Concepción, dwconcepcion@bsu.edu (NQ 204)
   Administrative Coordinator: Ann Adams, aeadams@bsu.edu (NQ 204)
   Academic Advisors: Ashley Mack-Jackson, almackjackso@bsu.edu (RB 2104)
                     Jennifer Wells, jawells2@bsu.edu (RB 2215A)
   Faculty: See profiles: faculty & staff profiles
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WHO WE ARE

The Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies is the academic home of 10 faculty members in philosophy (7 tenure/tenure-track and 3 contract), 5 faculty members in religious studies (4 tenure/tenure-track and 1 contract), 1 administrative coordinator, a handful of students who work part-time in the office, and the hundreds of students who take classes in the department each semester!

If you want to read more about each of us, see our photos, find our schedules & contact information, or links to our personal websites (for those us who have them), check out the faculty & staff profiles.

NAVIGATING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The following are questions & answers about some of the more nitty-gritty logistical and administrative matters relating to the philosophy major and minor. If you find yourself with questions about those sorts of routine matters, this is a great first place to start!

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

1. What courses are required to major or minor in philosophy?

   The best place to look is the department’s webpage. When we add new courses, our webpage is where we post those changes.

   Bachelor’s Degree Requirements for the Major

   Requirements for the Minor

2. What is considered a full course load?

   To graduate in four years, the university strongly recommends that students take 15 credit hours per semester.

   Being a full time student during the Fall and Spring semesters means taking 12-18 credit hours.
3. Can any course satisfy two requirements?

In general, a course can count as meeting requirements in two areas, such as core and major, if it is listed in your DegreeWorks in both areas. For example, Ethics (PHIL 202) can count as meeting your Tier 2 Humanities W requirement and it satisfies a requirement for the major or the minor. It will, however, only count as 3 credit hours toward the required 120 credit hours needed to graduate.

4. Can I take a course twice and have it count both times?

A few courses can be taken twice. In the course catalogue, these courses will have “(3-6)” or “(1-6)” after the course title.

5. Can I make substitutions for courses that DegreeWorks says I need?

On rare occasions, substitutions can be made: see the Department Chair.

6. Do any philosophy courses have pre-requisites?

No. Some do, however, require junior or senior standing.

7. What should I do if I’m a major and I can’t get into a class I want?

Contact the Administrative Coordinator in the Philosophy and Religious Studies department office, NQ 204, or at philrelst@bsu.edu.

8. How do I find out what philosophy courses will be offered next semester or the semester after that?

Ask the Department Chair. Each of our upper level courses is scheduled to be offered at least once in a two year rotation. However, it is common that we need to move a course or two. The Department Chair will have the most up-to-date information.

9. What philosophy courses can I use to meet my core curriculum requirements?

Philosophy 100 counts as a UCC Tier 1. Philosophy 102, 202, 230, 235, 240, and 304 can all count as UCC Tier 2 and/or Writing Intensive (and we hope to get approval for 235 in this category). Philosophy 415 counts as Writing Intensive.
10. How do I arrange for an independent study in philosophy?

An independent study is an opportunity for students to pursue a topic, text, or other project beyond the level covered in a regular course. See Independent Studies for more specific information about how to arrange one.

11. Why are some of my philosophy courses not listed in the philosophy major section on my DegreeWorks? Can I get them moved?

Yes. Just ask. Each student’s DegreeWorks is set according to the year the student enrolled. Sometimes if new courses have been added or the major has changed during your time at BSU, courses will not automatically populate in the major field. The Department Chair or an academic advisor can move them.

12. How do I declare a philosophy major or minor?

See one of the Humanities academic advisors.

13. Where do I find the dates and times for final exams?

University Calendars / Final Exam Schedules

14. How can I sign up to take the Writing Competency Exam?

General information can be found here: Writing Proficiency Program

There are links for the schedule and registration here: Writing Proficiency Exam

Extra experiences for students

15. Is there a philosophy club at BSU?

Yes! See the section on the Philosophy Club for more information.

16. What immersive learning experiences are available in the department?

We’ve got an amazing immersive learning experience! Under the PHIL 400 course number, we offer an immersive learning course called Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal. Click the link to go to more info.
17. What is departmental honors?

It is a mark of academic distinction available to any major who meets the minimum requirements below. If you earn departmental honors, that fact will be noted on your transcript and reported at Commencement.

1) Have a minimum 3.3 GPA in the Philosophy major in order to be eligible to begin to pursue honors credit, and have a minimum 3.5 GPA in the major at the time of graduation,

2) Complete a minimum of three upper-division courses (300- or 400-level) in Philosophy in which you earn honors credit,

3) Complete the following procedures for the three courses in which additional work is done in order to receive Departmental Honors credit:

   a. At or near the beginning of the semester, the student should inform the professor teaching the course that he/she wishes to take the course for Departmental Honors credit. If the professor agrees to provide the Departmental Honors credit option for the course, the student and the professor decide what type of academic work the student will do to earn Departmental Honors credit in addition to regular course work requirements. At a later time agreed upon, the student should have submitted a proposal and obtained approval by the professor. Special allowances and accommodations with respect to the timelines delineated above may be made by the professor.

   b. In order to complete the above steps, the student should go to the Honors College and obtain the required Departmental Honors forms. These include a form stating the intent to complete Departmental Honors and required forms for each course to be taken for Departmental Honors. The student should complete the forms, obtain all necessary signatures, make a photocopy of the forms for the professor of the given course in which honors work is to be undertaken, and return the originals to the Honors College.

   c. The student should retain a copy of all completed forms for his/her own records.
4) Complete the Capstone Project/HNRS 499N (or a comparable departmental equivalent).

5) Adhere to the following procedures for the Departmental Honors Capstone Project/HNRS 499N:
   
   a. Obtain from the Honors College the Departmental Honors Capstone Project Guide. Read and follow this guide carefully.

   b. Identify a faculty mentor for the Capstone Project prior to the semester in which the student wishes to enroll in HNRS 499N. Permission to enroll in HNRS 499N is only granted by the Honors College once the Honors College has approved the proposal. In any case, the student should obtain approval of the project proposal from the faculty mentor at the beginning of the semester in which the student wishes to enroll in the Capstone Project. Special allowances and accommodations with respect to this deadline may be made by the professor.

6) The minimum course grade accepted for honors credit will be a “B+”.

For complete details about departmental honors, please consult further with any member of the philosophy faculty.

18. What is honors in writing?

Honors in writing is administrated by the Department of English, to which you submit a portfolio of your writing. More information, including contact information for the Department of English can be found at Departmental Honors in Writing

19. What is Phi Sigma Tau (PST)?

Phi Sigma Tau is an honor society for students interested in philosophy, but it isn’t limited to philosophy majors and minors. See the section on Phi Sigma Tau for more information.
Troubleshooting

20. I have additional advising questions. Whom should I talk to?

It depends on what kind of question you have. If you have a question about your DegreeWorks, talk to one of the academic advisors for philosophy.

If you have questions directly related to philosophy (e.g., you are trying to decide whether a philosophy major or minor is right for you, or you are thinking about graduate school, talk to any philosophy faculty member.

21. How do I write a good philosophy paper? Similarly, how do I know whether or not my paper is any good?

You can find a lot more information about this question elsewhere in this handbook (see the sections on Effective Studying, the BSU Writing Center, the BSU Learning Center, and Academic Philosophy Links), but below are some very basic tips.

- Don’t wait until the last minute to write your paper.
- Read the assignment carefully, looking for grading criteria.
- Have someone else read and give you comments on your paper.

22. What do I do if I am having difficulty with another student in my class?

The first step is to talk to the professor teaching the class. It’s best to see that professor during office hours.

23. What do I do if I want to appeal a grade?

Grade appeals can only be made in response to the final grade for the semester. See the relevant policy and procedures here: Grade Appeals.

Grade disputes involving specific assignments need to be addressed directly to the professor of the relevant class.

24. What do I do if I am having difficulty with a faculty member?

If possible, talk to the faculty member about your concerns. If a discussion with the faculty member is not possible or you are not satisfied with the discussion, make
an appointment to speak with the department chair by contacting the Administrative Coordinator in the Philosophy and Religious Studies office via email at philrelst@bsu.edu.

Graduation & beyond

25. How do I apply for graduation?

You need to go to the relevant academic advising page to find the directions for how to apply for graduation.

26. How do I get faculty members to write graduate school reference letters for me?

You may need letters of recommendation for jobs, graduate school, internship programs, and volunteer programs. If you need such a letter from a faculty member, ask someone you know well, preferably someone with whom you’ve taken more than one class. Ask for the letter well in advance of when it is due (the earlier, the better!), and make sure to ask the faculty member if he or she would be willing to write you a strong letter of recommendation.

If he or she is willing and has the time to write your letter, the next step is to send him or her materials to allow him or her to write the best letter for you. The faculty member may ask for a copy of your resume, personal statement, and information about the specific program/job/school to which you are applying. Be clear about deadlines, and make sure you provide the faculty member with the requisite forms he or she will need to fill out and submit along with the letter.
Under the PHIL 400 course number the Philosophy Program offers an immersive learning course called *Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal*. In *Stance*, Ball State students lead an international team to create an academic journal that has received three national awards, as well as Ball State’s Immersive Learning Award.

Guided by a faculty advisor and the undergraduate editor(s)-in-chief, returning *Stance* students teach new participants. New participants learn to evaluate the form and content of manuscripts, conduct independent research, write constructive “revise and resubmit” and “rejection” letters, copy-edit, develop internal procedures and construct internal working documents, communicate professionally, produce print and web versions of the journal, and perform a variety of administrative functions involving leadership skills. Students in *Stance* tend to become very close. Philosophy majors involved with *Stance* have the opportunity to travel free of charge to the largest philosophy conference in the country. Learn more about *Stance* here: [http://stancephilosophy.com](http://stancephilosophy.com).

To enroll in *Stance* one must have permission of the instructor. If you are interested in taking PHIL 400, contact Dr. David Concepción, dwconcepcion@bsu.edu. To get the most out of *Stance* students should have completed about six philosophy courses or have a special skill set (e.g. copy editing experience).

**Independent Studies**

PHIL 403: Independent Study is an opportunity for students to pursue a topic, text, or other project beyond the level covered in a regular course. An independent study in your junior or senior year can play an important role in bringing together things you learned in other contexts. It also enables you to work more closely with a faculty member. If you are interested in doing an independent study, ask the faculty member you would like to work with whether they are willing. Note: you may register for PHIL 403 only twice.
Double Majoring

Lots of philosophy students double major; combining a philosophy major with another major is a great way to dig deeply into a subject that you are passionate about, and to do so from more than one angle, using more than one set of intellectual tools.

Another reason why double majoring is so common among philosophy students has to do with philosophy’s (somewhat ill-founded) reputation as being “impractical.” Some students who aren’t sure what they would do with a philosophy degree after college or who want a “more marketable” major, decide to pursue a philosophy major alongside another one. (However, see the section on How to Sell It to People Who Don’t Already Value Philosophy below for a more nuanced discussion of this idea.)

Double majoring is also particularly appealing to some of our highest performing students. Given the important role that critical, creative thinking plays in studying philosophy, we tend to attract students who thrive in challenging situations, and double majoring is another way for our students to aim high and set themselves ambitious goals.

The faculty in the philosophy program recognize the value of double majoring, which is part of why we have designed our curriculum to be as flexible as it can be. We give our students more options for how to fulfill their major requirements than the majority of other programs at BSU, making it easier for philosophy students to earn double majors than the students in some other programs.

Phi Sigma Tau

Phi Sigma Tau is an honor society for students interested in philosophy, but it isn’t limited to philosophy majors and minors. BSU has sponsored the Indiana Epsilon chapter of Phi Sigma Tau since 1994. Its objectives are to

- Award distinction to students with high scholarship and personal interest in philosophy;
- Promote student interest in research and advanced study;
- Provide opportunities for publication of student research papers of merit;
- Encourage a professional spirit among those who have displayed marked ability; and
- Popularize interest in philosophy among the general collegiate public.
To join Phi Sigma Tau, a student must have sophomore standing, at least a 3.0 GPA, have completed or registered for 2 philosophy classes, and pay a small fee. For more information, see Phi Sigma Tau.

Philosophy Club

The Ball State Philosophy Club is a student organization dedicated to fostering appreciation for philosophical issues by providing a friendly, intellectual forum for relevant discussions. Students, faculty members, and guests give presentations and lead discussions at weekly meetings (with snacks) that last an hour and a half. Everyone is welcome!

Philosophy Club’s own website  
Philosophy Club’s Public Group on Facebook

The faculty co-advisors for this club are Dr. Sarah Vitale and Dr. Rachel Fredericks – please contact them (at sevitale@bsu.edu or rlfredericks@bsu.edu) if you want to be added to the club’s email list.

Department Colloquia

A few times a year, faculty members from our department or guest faculty from other institutions present some of their original research in colloquia that are open to the public. These presentations generally last not much longer than an hour (and snacks are often provided).

Big Questions, Big Ideas

In partnership with the Muncie Public Library, our faculty organize a speaker series at the Kennedy Library to bring members of the Ball State community and the wider community together for discussions of a variety of big questions and big ideas. The presentations are designed to be accessible and interesting to the broadest possible audience; everyone is welcome to attend & participate!
Conference Travel & Funding

Attending a philosophy conference is an opportunity to engage with the community of philosophers beyond Ball State. At a conference, you can see presentations on subjects not represented in our curriculum and meet philosophers who have different views and expertise than our faculty members do. Presenting your own work, or simply offering your own feedback to other presenters, hones your verbal communication skills and deepens your thinking about the subjects that interest you.

To help students take part in conferences, our department may have some funding available to help pay for the costs of travel. See the Department Chair, Dr. David Concepción, dwconcepcion@bsu.edu
EFFECTIVE STUDYING

Whether you are new to philosophy, nearing graduation, or a professional, there is always room to improve your philosophical skills and habits through reflection and practice. With that in mind, some faculty members have written down advice to help you study & practice your philosophical skills effectively. We’ve posted the relevant Guides for Effective Studying in a designated Box.com account, which you can access by clicking the link. Below is a general list of the kinds of things you’ll find there.

There is a fair bit of overlap in the advice given in those documents, but there are some differences in what they recommend, because there are multiple methodologies in philosophy, all of which are valuable. Be careful to always give priority to the guidelines that are specific to the particular course you are taking and the assignment you are completing.

Dr. David Concepción
(many of these handouts come from a course co-taught with Dr. Thorson)
- How to Read Philosophy
- How to Write a Précis
- Sample Précis
- Argument Evaluation Form

Dr. Kevin Harrelson
- Research Paper Instructions
- Essay on Descartes
- Education Essay

Dr. Rachel Fredericks
- Guide to Philosophical Reading and Questioning
- Guide to Philosophical Note-taking

Dr. Juli Thorson
- One Page Paper Structure
- Writing Well; Writing with Concision
- Paper Writing Workshop
- Paper Guidelines

Dr. Sarah Vitale
- Paper Writing Tips
- Peer Evaluation
SUCCEEDING AFTER GRADUATION

Careers for Philosophers

While it may not be obvious, studying philosophy is great preparation for a wide variety of different careers. Traditionally, lots of philosophy majors have gone on to be lawyers, doctors, clergy members, professors, or people who work at non-profits. But lots of other jobs are also within your reach after studying philosophy. In fact, check out the following link to a presentation (by some random person) about why and how studying philosophy can prepare you for so many different careers:

- Philosophy and Careers
- Career Outcomes for Majors in Philosophy and Religious Studies (a cool pie chart)

There are also lots of philosophy departments, career centers, and other groups who have things to say about what jobs are a good fit for philosophy majors and why. We’ve collected links to just a few of them below:

- University of Maryland: Careers for Philosophy Majors
- University of Kentucky: Where Can Philosophy Take Me?
- University of Florida: The Philosophy Major's Career Handbook
- UC San Diego: What can I do with a Philosophy degree?
- One Day, One Job: Philosophy
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Why Major in Philosophy?
- University of Kansas: Featured Resources & Career Ideas
- Christopher Newport University: Career Opportunities

For one of many lists you can find online of people you might have heard of who studied philosophy, see American Philosophical Association: Who Studies Philosophy?
How to Sell It to People Who Don’t Already Value Philosophy

Lots of people who argue against getting a degree in philosophy are concerned about money, and it isn’t crazy to wonder whether someone who majors in philosophy is likely to be able to financially support themselves. But the financial prospects for philosophy majors are better than some people think. For example, check out the chart below, which shows that mid-career salaries for philosophy majors tend to be among the highest:

![Average Mid-Career Salary Chart](image)

Part of why mid-career philosophers tend to make good salaries is because so many people who get undergraduate degrees in philosophy go on to get graduate degrees in fairly lucrative professional fields. So note that if you want to go to graduate school in any field, an undergraduate degree in philosophy is great preparation for that (as the following charts make clear)!
THE POWER OF PHILOSOPHY
Mean GRE Scores By Intended Graduate Field, 2011–2012
Charts by Ty Fagan and Maty Silverstein

Verbal
Scores range from 130–170
- Philosophy: 160
- English Literature: 157
- Art History: 154
- History: 156
- Physics: 156
- Political Science: 156
- Economics: 154
- Mathematics: 154
- Biology: 153
- Chemistry: 153
- Sociology: 152
- Engineering: 150
- Computer: 149

Quantitative
Scores range from 130–170
- Mathematics: 161
- Economics: 159
- Engineering: 159
- Computers: 158
- Chemistry: 157
- Biology: 153
- Philosophy: 153
- Political Science: 151
- Art History: 149
- History: 148
- English Literature: 148
- Philosophy: 148
- Sociology: 148

Analytical Writing
Scores range from 0–6
- Philosophy: 4.4
- English Literature: 4.3
- Art History: 4.3
- History: 4.2
- Political Science: 4.2
- Economics: 4.0
- Physics: 4.0
- Sociology: 4.0
- Biology: 3.9
- Chemistry: 3.9
- Mathematics: 3.9
- Engineering: 3.6
- Computer: 3.4

Mean LSAT and GMAT Scores by Intended Undergraduate Major
Graduate Management Admission Council, "Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) Preparation Guide" (http://www.mba.com/gmat/intelligence-and-research/research-library/gmat-test-taken-dots.aspx)

Law School Admission Test
Required by U.S. Law Schools 2007–2008; Scores range from 124–180
- Philosophy: 157.4
- Economics: 157.4
- Engineering: 156.2
- History: 155.9
- English Literature: 155.3
- Biology: 154.8
- Art History: 144.2
- Political Science: 153.1
- Psychology: 152.5
- Sociology: 151.2

Graduate Management Admission Test
Required by U.S. Business Schools 2010–2011; Scores range from 200–800
- Physics: 610
- Mathematics: 609
- Philosophy: 599
- Engineering: 594
- Economics: 584
- History: 575
- English Literature: 504
- Political Science: 555
- Psychology: 533
- Sociology: 511

DO PHILOSOPHY MAJORS MAKE ANY MONEY?
Annual Salaries and Salary Growth by Undergraduate Major

Annual Salary
Median salary of mid-career graduates without higher degrees
Data collected in 2008
- Economics: $98,600
- Engineering: $93,600
- Mathematics: $92,400
- Philosophy: $81,200
- Chemistry: $79,900
- Political Science: $74,200
- Business: $72,100
- History: $71,000
- Biology: $64,800
- English Literature: $64,700
- Art History: $61,900
- Psychology: $60,400
- Sociology: $58,200

Salary Growth
Increase from starting to mid-career median salary of graduates without higher degrees
Data collected in 2008
- Philosophy: 103.3%
- Mathematics: 103.3%
- Economics: 96.8%
- Political Science: 91.7%
- Chemistry: 87.6%
- Art History: 81.7%
- History: 81.1%
- English Literature: 73.3%
- Engineering: 69.1%
- Psychology: 68.2%
- Business: 67.7%
- Biology: 67%
- Sociology: 59.5%
It is no secret that lots of people think that philosophy is impractical.

However, others beg to differ, and thankfully, studying philosophy provides us with tools to help persuade people that it is valuable (regardless of whether you see graduate school in your future)! The following is just one little argument that Dr. Fredericks wrote (after being inspired by this article) for why that is:

1. Nowadays, youngish people in affluent countries have good reason to believe that they will change jobs (or even careers) multiple times during their adult life.
2. To be employable under those conditions, youngish people in affluent countries have good reason to develop skills that are useful in a variety of different jobs and contexts.
3. Philosophy, more so than many disciplines, teaches skills that are useful in a variety of jobs and contexts, such as the ability to:
   a. Read and comprehend complex texts;
   b. Solve problems independently;
   c. Express oneself clearly and persuasively (both in writing and verbally);
   d. Define terms unambiguously;
   e. Test claims for accuracy;
   f. Listen to and learn from people with different beliefs and values;
   g. And many more.
4. Therefore, if you are a youngish person in an affluent country who wants to be employable, you have good reason to get a philosophy major or minor.

Now suppose that someone makes the following objection to the argument above:

1. Even if I believe you that philosophy helps students develop those skills, and I agree that those skills are very useful in many contexts, that doesn’t change the fact that lots of other people believe that philosophy is frivolous and useless.
2. So no matter how useful philosophy actually is, if I want to get hired by a person who thinks like that, having a philosophy major (or minor) won’t help me get my foot in the door.
3. So there is no point in getting a philosophy major or minor.

How could a philosopher respond to that objection? Well, they would have a few options, of which the following are just two:

1. What you’ve just said gives you a reason to study philosophy AND something else that is widely perceived as “more practical.”
   a. The “more practical” major or minor can help you get your foot in the door in some particular job or industry, but the philosophy major or minor can
help you excel in whatever job you get, and thus keep that job, get promoted, and/or more easily transition into another job, if that is what you want or need to do.

2. But maybe you don’t even need another major after all.
   a. For philosophy teaches students how to argue in favor of claims by giving good reasons for believing that those claims are true.
   b. Thus, if one wants to get hired by someone who thinks philosophy is useless, having studied philosophy gives one just the tools and skills that one would need to convince that person of the usefulness of philosophy (if the person will listen to reason)!

What I just did there was construct an argument, consider an objection that someone might make to it, and then respond to that objection. These are some of the core skills we learn and practice in philosophy classes!

For more data to help you support your argument that philosophy is a good subject to study in college, see the following

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Why Major in Philosophy?
- The Wall Street Journal: Salary Increases by Major
- Association of American Colleges & Universities: Key Findings from 2013 Survey of Employers
- University of Kansas: Where Can Philosophy Take Me?
BSU Resources

**BSU Libraries**

Every BSU student has a reason to get familiar with the resources at the library, whether we are talking about the staff, the print collections, or the digital collections. The library has lots of good stuff for people studying philosophy, including a subject guide with material specifically for philosophy students.

**BSU Writing Center**

The Writing Center, in the Robert Bell 295, is where students, faculty, and staff at Ball State go for writing support. They have helped thousands of Ball State writers through free one-on-one feedback sessions, workshops, presentations, writing communities, and online resources for writers. Check out their website to make an appointment and for lots of online resources. And don’t forget that all writers can benefit from getting a fresh set of eyes on their work; writing help is for students who are struggling and for students who are already excelling alike.

**BSU Learning Center**

Located in North Quad 350, the BSU Learning Center helps students FOR FREE with core classes, and just as importantly, gives students guidance in developing study skills.
Resources available through the Learning Center include face-to-face tutoring, online tutoring, supplemental instruction, online video workshops, and group learning experiences. So if you find yourself struggling with a particular class, or with things like time management, organizational skills, or procrastination, the Learning Center can help.

But wait, there is more! The Learning Center doesn’t just offer students academic assistance; they also provide employment opportunities for students. Students can get jobs in the Learning Center as tutors. Student tutors don’t just get training, a paycheck, valuable work experience, and a deeper understanding of the subject they are tutoring, but they also have the privilege of helping their peers be successful in their own studies.

**BSU Career Center**

The BSU Career Center, in Lucina Hall 220, is the place to go for help thinking through your options for careers or graduate schools, finding jobs on campus and internships, creating resumes, practicing for interviews, and much more.

Eilis Wasserman is the Assistant Director of the Career Center and the Career Coach who represents the Department of Philosophy and Religion, and can be contacted at ewasserman@bsu.edu.

**Box.com**

Did you know that every member of our community has free access to 50 GB of cloud-based storage via Box.com?

It is a good idea to store (organized) copies of all your assignments in your Box account so that you can keep track of everything you’ve learned and be ready to choose a writing sample or put together a whole portfolio if the occasion arises (say, to apply for a prize or a job or graduate school). Box also provides an easy way to back up your files in case of a computer crash at an inopportune moment! For more information, see BSU Box.com Basics Guide
Academic Philosophy Links

Working on a paper? Thinking about proposing an independent study? Can’t get enough in your philosophy classes? Try out the following links to explore new (to you) philosophical ideas, questions, and problems, or to dig more deeply into something mentioned in class.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
PhilPapers
The Philosopher’s Index
Philosophy Eserver: lots of canonical philosophical texts
The UPDirectory (of Philosophers from Underrepresented Groups in Philosophy)
The Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab: especially good for help with citations)
Philosophy Pages: lots of resources compiled for undergrad philosophy students

Philosophy Blogs, Podcasts, & Other Fun Stuff

Philosophy is not just for course credit; it can be just a fun way to while away the time. Check out the following for some philosophy stuff that is not so serious!

BSU Philosophy & Religious Studies Department Facebook page
BSU Philosophy Club webpage
BSU Philosophy Club Facebook page

Looks Philosophical
Philosophy Experiments
Philosophy Matters Facebook page
The Stone: The New York Times’ Philosophy Blog
TPM: the philosophers’ magazine online
WiPhi: short videos about philosophical topics
Philosophical Humor
The History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps: a podcast
The Partially Examined Life: a podcast
PEA Soup: a blog dedicated to philosophy, ethics, and academia
Philosophy Bites: podcasts of top philosophers interviewed on bite-sized topics
Philosophy Now: a magazine of ideas
Philosophy Graduate School

You want to learn more about philosophy? You love being in school? You want to become a philosophy professor? You might want to consider going to grad school in philosophy. Doing that is a big commitment, so it is good idea to talk to your professors in detail about what that involves, how to apply, and what else you should think about as you make your decision. But you can also get started thinking about that choice by starting with the links below:

Seattle Pacific University: Thinking about Graduate School in Philosophy?(advice to help you think about whether philosophy grad school might be a good choice for you)
The American Philosophical Association’s Guide to Graduate Programs
The Philosophical Gourmet Report
Pluralist’s Guide: A Philosopher’s Guide to Graduate Programs
Portland State University Application Guide to Graduate School in Philosophy
Humboldt State Graduate School Advice for Philosophy Majors
PIKSI: Philosophy In an Inclusive Key Summer Institutes (help preparing for grad school)

Philosophy majors often decide to go to graduate schools in other fields, and they are exceptionally well prepared to earn high scores on graduate school entrance exams of all kinds. For supporting empirical data, check out the following sources:

- American Philosophical Association: Philosophy Student Performance on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
- American Philosophical Association: Philosophy Student Performance on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)
- Physics Central: Best Majors for GRE Scores in 2013: Philosophy Dominates
- High Point University: Philosophy & Graduate School

Professional Philosophy

What do professional philosophers do besides teach in colleges and universities? How do they get their jobs? What are conferences for professional philosophers like? The links below will give you a bit more of an idea of what it is like to do philosophy for a living:

American Philosophical Association
Data & Information on the Profession of Philosophy(data specifically about the profession)
PhilJobs: a database of employment opportunities for professional philosophers (pretty much every open job for someone with a philosophy PhD who speaks English and wants an academic position is here, plus some others)
Jobs in Philosophy
Higher Ed Jobs (in philosophy)
PhilEvents: a database of events in the academic philosophy community