

EXPLORE. PURSUE. REALIZE.



The Hood College

**Department of
Philosophy and
Religious Studies**

hood.edu/phil

THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Philosophy is central to a liberal arts education; philosophical reflection is central to the development of critical thinking and analysis, as well as to questions about what we can know, who we should be, how we should live and what we should value. Participation in robust philosophical discussions with contemporary and historical thinkers cultivates skills needed for good citizenship, fosters appreciation of knowledge from a variety of perspectives and the promotes concern for social and political justice, particularly with respect to marginalized communities.

The philosophy major will help you acquire critical thinking and writing skills, develop your ability to construct and evaluate rational arguments, cultivate your skills in logical reasoning and inference, help you learn to think “outside the box” and develop a broader perspective, lead you to discuss questions of meaning and value, and give you an appreciation of the historical development of some central philosophical arguments and positions.

The undergraduate study of philosophy will prepare you for employment or for graduate

and professional study in a wide variety of fields. Philosophy constitutes an essential part of the education you need to help you be thoughtful and skilled participants in the world of work and to be responsible, engaged citizens in your larger communities. Studying philosophy is among the best ways to prepare for future enrollment in law school.

In addition to overseeing the philosophy major and minor, the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies coordinates an interdisciplinary ethics minor that covers both theoretical and applied topics and is recommended for students majoring in many other fields.

Major, Minors and Concentrations

MAJOR

Philosophy Major (B.A.)

MINORS

Ethics Minor

Philosophy Minor



4PLUS

Hood's 4PLUS program will save you the cost and study time of graduate admission tests, application fees and extra courses. By working with your adviser, you can start taking courses toward your master's in your junior or senior year and earn dual-course credit for both your undergraduate and master's degree in several majors.

Any bachelor's degree can be combined with a master's in business administration, cybersecurity or information technology.

THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR (AND MINOR)

Philosophy encourages you to challenge your unreflective assumptions about reality, meaning and value, and to explore answers to questions concerning the nature of being and existence, the distinction between knowledge and opinion, the nature of truth, the proper role of government, the development of good character, and the determination of right and wrong in the choices we make about how to live.

As we confront quandaries posed by the latest developments in science and technology, the kinds of questions philosophers are raising have never been more relevant. These questions cover things like the creation of institutional policies to cover the development and use of new technologies. Philosophers working in fields like biomedical ethics are needed to help hospitals develop policies concerning issues such as the distribution of limited resources, the meaning of informed consent, and patient participation in clinical trials.

Students who plan to work in a wide variety of fields are well served by this major because of its emphasis on the cultivation of clarity of thought and expression, logical reasoning, critical thinking and effective writing — valuable skills in any career. The philosophy major at Hood provides a good grounding in the discipline, as well as opportunities for participation in internships, independent study, tutorials and directed research.

THE ETHICS MINOR

Grounded in philosophy, the ethics minor provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of ethical theory and to its practical applications to various contexts and situations. Covering applied topics relevant to a wide range of fields, the ethics minor is a helpful complement to many majors.

If you choose to complete this minor, you will acquire a solid grasp of the foundations of and differences among some of the major theories of normative value, as well as learn to apply those theories to practical situations.

The minor also stresses the importance of ethical reflection about and attempts to remedy historical and contemporary injustices, such as the problematic marginalization of members of some communities, the troubling persistence of social inequalities and the existence of inequitable distributions of power and resources.

HOOD BY THE NUMBERS

32

BACHELOR'S
DEGREES

19

MASTER'S
DEGREES

11

POST-BACCALAUREATE
CERTIFICATES

2

DOCTORAL
PROGRAMS

8 MASTER'S PROGRAMS THAT CAN BE ACCELERATED AS PART OF THE 4PLUS PROGRAM

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE 15

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO 11:1

2,037

TOTAL
ENROLLMENT

1,182

NUMBER OF
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

30&14
STATES COUNTRIES

OF ORIGIN FOR
UNDERGRAD
STUDENTS

40%

UNDERGRADUATE
DIVERSITY

855 GRADUATE STUDENTS

97

FULL-TIME
PROFESSORS

95%

OF FULL-TIME
FACULTY HOLD A
TERMINAL DEGREE
IN THEIR FIELD

136

PART-TIME AND
ADJUNCT FACULTY
COMPLEMENT THE
FACULTY WITH
THEIR EXPERTISE

26%

DIVERSITY OF
FULL-TIME
FACULTY



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VISIT & APPLY

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