

EXPLORE. PURSUE. REALIZE.



**The Hood College**

**Department of  
Philosophy and  
Religious Studies**

[www.hood.edu/phil](http://www.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.

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**



## **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.



## About Hood

Founded in 1893 in Frederick, Maryland, Hood College is a coeducational, independent, liberal arts college, which offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates. Home to approximately 1,100 undergraduate students from 25 states and 15 countries, Hood offers 28 majors, 47 minors, and pre-professional preparation in medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry and law. Hood students experience small class sizes, where they receive individual attention from supportive faculty. With its proximity to Washington, D.C., Baltimore and the I-270 biotech corridor, Hood gives its students access to countless internships and research opportunities.

At Hood, we are challenging students to improve their critical thinking, communication and collaborative skills and preparing them not just for their first jobs, but for their careers. For high-achieving students, we offer a four-year honors program with a living and learning setting expanding the curriculum with an emphasis on interdisciplinary education through discussion-based seminars, collaborative projects and experiential learning opportunities. Eighty-five percent of first-year students live on campus; more than 40 campus clubs and organizations as well as 22 NCAA Division III athletic teams and two club-level athletic teams create an active and vibrant campus environment.

Hood, in addition to its exceptional undergraduate programs, also offers 19 master's degrees, 10 certificate programs and two doctoral programs. Our graduate programs are designed to work in tandem with our bachelor's degrees so that students can take advantage of dual-degree programs. Hood is located in a fantastic college town; students are within walking distance of shops, galleries and restaurants and a vibrant downtown. A tremendous alumni network offers students and graduates mentoring, connections, guidance and advice. The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and many other publications have recognized Hood as an affordable top-tier institution.

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