



**Rather than love,
than money,
than fame,
give me truth.**

—Henry David Thoreau

Degree Programs

- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
- Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies: Philosophy
- Minor in Philosophy

Philosophy is concerned with the fundamental questions of human existence. Plato sets part of the agenda for the history of Western thought by arguing that the basic ideas needed to address these questions are truth, beauty, and goodness. In our program, you will study the history of ideas to gain a deeper understanding of how contemporary problems stem from these age-old questions. At the same time, you will study contemporary issues in physics, biology, psychology, religion, art, law, and government. In each case, philosophy probes the limits of these areas of inquiry and examines methods used to improve our understanding. By examining the foundations of these different areas, we hope to gain a better grasp of the justification of the basic principles that guide how we ought to live and think.

In our program, you will learn to read more carefully, think more reflectively, and write more clearly. These skills are vital to many different career paths. Students in philosophy have entered such traditional professions as medicine, law, the clergy, teaching, and business. Philosophy majors also perform significantly better, on average, than other students on entrance exams to law school, medical school, and MBA programs. In a number of studies, students with liberal arts majors such as philosophy have had greater success in the management of businesses than students majoring in business, engineering, or mathematics. Why? Because philosophy students learn to examine the arguments on each side of an issue and to develop well reasoned answers.

In the final analysis, the study of philosophy will prepare you for a thoughtful life.

Career Opportunities

Philosophy majors succeed in ...

Law	Diplomatic corps
Public policy	Creative writing and journalism
Medicine and medical ethics	Teaching
Religion	Computer science
Business	Psychology and sociology
Government	History

“To succeed in business you have to be able to anticipate problems and capitalize on opportunities. More than any other aspect of my education, the study of philosophy taught me to search for new answers, identify new questions, and resolve conflicts, which is what business is all about.”

Tony Picarello, NAU Philosophy (Business Emphasis) alumnus, Director of Marketing of Volvo Trucks North America.

Explore Courses that Jump-start Your Career

Make your point, and understand theirs

Argumentation is the essence of intellectual exchange. Choose from two great introductions to the art of getting the point across. In **Argument Analysis** you will analyze and evaluate arguments as they occur in everyday life. Our **Scientific Reasoning** course focuses on examples from scientific discourse to investigate logical relations between theories and facts.

Environmental protection

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." Do you agree? This famous quote by Wilderness Society co-founder Aldo Leopold underlies much of the philosophy and politics of the modern environmental movement. In **Environmental Ethics** you will critically examine moral arguments for protecting and preserving the environment.

Experience the Work World

You are encouraged to pursue cooperative education, fieldwork, and internship experiences. These customized programs build your résumé, networks, and provide "education by experience" in areas of special interest to you. In the past, our students have done internship programs with the state legislature and law firms and have conducted independent research under the guidance of professors in the department.

Medical advances, ethical challenges

Successes in medical science, like organ transplants, cloning, and "extraordinary measures" to prolong life have raised enormously difficult questions in bioethics. In our **Health Care Ethics** course, you will examine such topics as euthanasia, genetic testing, and justice in the distribution of health care.

Double Major

Since philosophy students examine the methods and basic principles used in different areas of inquiry, our students can complete double majors in philosophy and other programs such as physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, history, literature, education, and political science. The double-major program is rigorous and is best suited for the strongest students, but it is one way to stand out as you prepare for a career in a highly competitive area, such as law, medicine, or teaching and research at the college level.

Study Abroad

Study for a summer, a semester, or an academic year in universities around the globe. The university has cooperative agreements with institutions in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. We provide international education opportunities to all academically qualified students. Start your travel planning with a visit to nau.edu/international.

Participate!

Join your peers in the **Philosophy Club** to discuss the issues that fascinate you. This community of thinkers provides a network based on mutual support and common interest, creates a marketplace of ideas, and works to deepen the love and understanding of philosophy.

Finish in Four

Stay on a four-year track to your degree and save money in the process. The university guarantees access to the courses you'll need to graduate on time. It's your responsibility to talk to an advisor early. Eligible degree programs: BA Philosophy. To learn more, visit nau.edu/finishinfour.