



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like additional information on the philosophy or religion program at Western Carolina University, please visit us online at [philrel.wcu.edu](http://philrel.wcu.edu), call 828.227.7262, or email [amckenzie@wcu.edu](mailto:amckenzie@wcu.edu). Application materials and deadlines can be found at [admissions.wcu.edu](http://admissions.wcu.edu).



### PHILOSOPHERS DARE TO ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS

Philosophy is the exploration of fundamental and controversial issues that most people don't even dare to consider. When politicians and spin doctors offer superficial sound bites, philosophers seek clarity and evidence. Here are some of the questions that we ask at WCU: Is terrorism ever morally justified? Are religion and science really incompatible? Can psychology or evolutionary biology tell us what it means to be in love? What should the goals of a modern education be?

# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN PHILOSOPHY



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## PHILOSOPHY MAJORS: AN UNCONVENTIONAL CREW

People are usually drawn to philosophy because they wonder if the common wisdom might not be so wise after all. Philosophy majors ask about tough and controversial issues, and they talk to each other a lot while looking for good answers. Other people may think we're an unconventional and brash bunch, but we kind of like it that way. It keeps our classes and our lives interesting.

## PHILOSOPHY, FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Your friends might say that you can't get a job selling philosophy after you graduate, but the joke is on them. A survey including 1.2 million people conducted by PayScale.com found that 15 years after graduating, philosophy majors earned more than people who majored in accounting, IT, business management, biology, and many other subjects that people often assume are more practical. In fact, philosophy majors ranked 16th out of 50 majors studied. Graduate schools and employers consistently say that what they want most in their applicants are critical thinking and argumentation skills. More than any other discipline, philosophy teaches what employers want over the long term.



## PHILOSOPHY PREPARES YOU FOR WHAT?

It's true that to enter medical school you have to complete a number of prerequisites in the natural sciences, but majoring in philosophy might give you a leg up on the competition. In fact, the American Medical Association recently approved a new MCAT exam (the standardized test for entrance to medical school) that will include questions testing students' skills in critical reasoning and their knowledge of "ethics and philosophy." And the Journal of Economic Education showed that philosophy majors were, once again, tied for first place for average scores on the LSAT (the standardized exam for admission to law schools). Many people wrongly believe that you have to major in pre-law, criminal justice, or political science to go to law school. The truth is that law schools look for the critical reasoning, reading, and persuasive argumentation skills that are the core of an education in philosophy.



## PHILOSOPHY, A PATHWAY TO JOB SATISFACTION

One of the worst mistakes people make in college is to choose a major just because they think it's practical even though they're not really interested in the subject. But think about it: if you find your classes boring, you're almost certainly going to hate the job. Philosophers have long striven to live up to the ancient motto, "Know thyself!" With that self-understanding behind you, you'll be well on your way to finding work that is truly fulfilling. An education in philosophy prepares you for much more than your first job out of college. It helps prepare you to live a substantial and rewarding life.