

Religion and Philosophy: Philosophy Concentration Major

Reflecting with self-awareness on the nature of existence and the good life is humanity's most distinctive ability. This lies at the heart of philosophy, which explores life's deepest questions and mankind's greatest attempts to reason through them. PC offers a religion and philosophy major with a concentration in philosophy. As you study philosophers from Aristotle to Sartre, you learn to read and think critically, and integrate ideas. The religion and philosophy major prepares you for graduate school and multiple career options, including law and business.

PC's caring professors inspire you to be generous in your thinking and interacting with others in the world. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

What You'll Study When You Study Philosophy

The religion and philosophy major exposes you to the big ideas that have influenced mankind throughout history. While you wrestle with abstract concepts as a philosophy student, you also come away with practical, real world skills. You learn to formulate and present logical arguments, rather than emotional ones. You learn to generate and organize ideas, and communicate them clearly in speech and writing.

Philosophy concentration requirements total 33 hours of coursework. During your first two years you'll take Logic and choose from History of Philosophy courses, such as Modern Political Thought. You'll also pick one ethics course like Business Ethics. The 15 hours of electives allow you to study relevant topics that interest you. As a senior, you'll demonstrate your skills in research, writing and presentation through a capstone project. If eligible, you may also conduct an honors project, which earns you marks of distinction on your transcript and diploma.

Many PC philosophy students consider minoring or double-majoring in another subject, such as pre-law or business administration.

Careers for Philosophy Majors

If you're wondering whether there are any jobs for philosophy majors, don't worry. Earning a philosophy degree shows that you know how to think and communicate logically, and those skills are highly valued. Many philosophy graduates find jobs in

business, nonprofit organizations and government. With a philosophy degree you're also more likely to become a CEO than are graduates from other disciplines.

According to PayScale, those with a bachelor's degree in philosophy earn an average salary of \$67,000, as of December 2019. And the Wall Street Journal published data that philosophy majors, ten years after graduating, earn 103.5% more than their entry-level salaries.

Recent graduates from PC's religion and philosophy department have pursued careers in law and medicine. Alumni serve as social workers and physical therapists. Many earn advanced degrees from some of the country's finest universities, including Princeton and Emory. No matter your major, PC's liberal arts education prepares you with problem-solving, critical thinking and other soft skills employers look for.

Student Experiences

At PC, learning isn't confined to classrooms. No matter your major, you'll have opportunities to learn outside the classroom and away from campus.

- **Studying abroad.** PC offers programs through which you may study abroad for a summer, semester or an entire year. Immersive trips to places like Turkey, Nepal, China, Ireland, Egypt, Israel and Spain connect you to ancient cultures and belief traditions.
- **Summer Fellows Program.** You can work together with your professors on a summer project and receive a stipend for participating in the program.
- **Independent research.** You can conduct independent research during the regular academic year on a topic of your choice.
- **Internships.** An internship provides you with hands-on experience in a position where religion and/or philosophy are the focus. It can serve as a means to fulfill general education credit and/or as a means to explore career options.

In addition to these campuswide opportunities, other extracurricular activities are available to you as a religion and philosophy student.

- **Religious groups.** You can explore your faith and meet kindred spirits in campus religious life groups like Catholic Student Association, FCA, and Ukirk.
- **Volunteering.** Student Volunteer Services provides opportunities for you to help those in need in the community.

Fast Facts

1. Peter Thiel majored in philosophy before he co-founded Paypal and helped develop Facebook, Yelp, Spotify, Yammer and LinkedIn.
2. The Department of Religion and Philosophy at PC accepts students from all faith traditions.
3. Philosophy graduates are more likely to become CEOs compared with graduates from other disciplines.
4. Ten years after graduating, philosophy majors earn 103.5% more than their entry-level salaries, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Meta Page Description

Presbyterian College's religion and philosophy major includes a philosophy concentration that equips you for graduate school and multiple careers.