

Philosophy

12 semester hours of philosophy electives, 6 of which are numbered above 200 12

Total Hours 18

The philosophy major gives students the opportunity to understand and to answer the most important questions of human existence: How do we know what we know? What does it mean to exist? Is there a Supreme Being? What is a human being? What are ethical ways to live? What is the meaning of life? With particular focus on the perennial philosophies of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas, who built the foundations of the Catholic intellectual tradition in philosophy, the major assists students in integrating personal experience with philosophical reflection, as these thinkers did.

Career Opportunities

The most obvious career path in philosophy is graduate school and then professorship. However, philosophy students generally excel at a variety of skills, including critical and higher-order thinking, finding key concepts in the midst of complex information, evaluating ideas, clarifying ethical dimensions, and communicating effectively. As a result, our majors have succeeded in graduate schools in many disciplines, especially law school. In addition, philosophy students have found that these skills have contributed to their success in whatever field they enter.

See the Graduate section (<http://catalog.mtmercy.edu/archives/2014-15/graduateprograms>) of this *Catalog* for more information on Graduate programs offered at Mount Mercy.

Major in Applied Philosophy

This major provides a flexible framework for students interested in philosophical questions. The applied philosophy major emphasizes critical thinking and practical ethics, and thus is designed to be a useful second major, which becomes the area of 'application' for interdisciplinary study in the student's senior research.

The philosophy faculty must approve all programs in applied philosophy. The approval procedure requires that each student complete a plan for the major which must explain the reasons why he/she is undertaking this program and include a list of the courses to be taken in philosophy and from other departments.

Major

PL 141	Logic	3
PL 269	Introduction to Ethics	3
PL 270	Introduction to Asian Thought	3
PL 310	Special Topics: Applied Ethics	3
PL 400	Senior Independent Research/Writing	3
6 additional semester hours in philosophy courses, at least 3 of which are numbered above 200		6
9 semester hours in approved courses from another department or other departments, 6 of which are numbered above 200		9
Total Hours		30

Philosophy Minor

PL 269	Introduction to Ethics	3
PL 270	Introduction to Asian Thought	3