

Philosophy

Learning Goals

1. To be able to recognize, analyze, and evaluate structures of arguments by identifying the key assumptions, theses, and justifications for a given position.
2. To be able to compare views, to formulate arguments, and to communicate clearly in speech and writing, particularly in the service of creative and critical problem solving.
3. To gain familiarity with the central figures and texts in the history of philosophy, both ancient and modern.
4. To attain broad acquaintance with, and thoughtful reflection upon, contemporary philosophical topics and practices.
5. To gain the capacity for independent research and critical inquiry.
6. To be able to engage in discussion of alternative positions with intellectual honesty and respect.

About the major

Philosophy, one of the oldest and broadest disciplines, is a living intellectual enterprise that belongs at the heart of a liberal arts education. From the Greek, *philosophia* means “love of wisdom,” and in that sense of the term, Socrates famously said that philosophy proved necessary for leading “the examined life.” From its ancient origins to our own times, philosophy has always guided our thinking about difficult and controversial issues by allowing us to question assumptions, to examine arguments, and to think clearly and creatively about the most fundamental questions.

Philosophical commitments lie at the foundation of law, government, science, art, and moral debates. Professors of philosophy at Middlebury represent a diversity of research fields and teaching areas; students benefit from this diversity by studying both classics from across the history of philosophy and a wide range of contemporary topics.

Majors in philosophy gain outstanding preparation for graduate study and law school, as well as for medicine, business, and many other professions.

Reasons you might choose this major

- Intangible ideas and questioning reality are definitely your preferred conversation topics over dinner.
- You look for meaning in everything.
- You are troubled by the moral injustices you see taking place around you and all around the world, and you want to do something about them.
- You are fascinated by human consciousness and interested in your own self-awareness.
- You wonder whether science tells us the ultimate truth about the world.
- You want to sharpen your ability to reason and create a well-thought-out argument, particularly when emotions are at stake.
- You are interested in how philosophical arguments have shaped societies, civilizations, and world history at large.
- You are interested in a career in law, economics, government, education, public service, or any other number of fields that have deeply rooted philosophical bases.
- You are concerned with the human condition.



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where philosophy majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Beijing Parallel World

Global Premier Management

Forager

PEN America

Transformative Justice Law Project

Corporate Accountability International

Bellevue Hospital

Bank of America Merrill Lynch

John Graham Emergency Shelter

The White House

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

Climate Justice Alliance

Locus Analytics

Bloomsbury Publishing

Responsible Endowments Coalition

Smithsonian National Museum of American History

First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Karamah: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights

DeJusticia

Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Supreme Court

Conflict Records Research Center at the National Naval Defense Institute

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. **go/midd2midd**

United States Institute of Peace, *Senior Program Officer*

CNS Pharmaceuticals, Inc., *CEO*

Limitless Argentina, *Founder and President*

Pacific Standard Magazine, *Executive Editor*

FlameStower, Inc., *Vice President, Sales and Marketing*

Systems and Software Inc., *Director, Implementation Consulting*

Tsai Capital Corporation, *President and Chief Investment Officer*

Conscience Bay Company, *Director of Resource Investments*

Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, *Executive Director*

The Opposition with Jordan Klepper, *Writer*

Kirk Documentary Group/Frontline, *Field Producer*

U.S. Air Force, *Surgeon*

Uber Advanced Technology Groups, *Senior Product Manager, Self Driving Trucks*

Institute Sarita, *COO and CFO*

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Library, *Special Projects Librarian*

Kaiser Permanente, *Clinical Psychologist*

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, *Research Director*

Google Inc., *Legal Specialist*

Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America, *Director of Recruitment*

Children's Law Center of California, *Staff Attorney*

Yacobian Group, *Creative Director*

JP Morgan, *Analyst at the Philanthropy Centre*