Wonder. Experiencing this feeling is how most people first enter the world of philosophy, the passionate quest for understanding. Gonzaga is a Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic university. The study of philosophy has been at the heart of all three of these educational pillars—the heart of humanistic education since the time of Plato, of Catholic education since the time of Augustine, and of Jesuit education since the time of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Indeed, St. Aloysius Gonzaga himself was a philosophy student at a Jesuit university at the time of his death. “Philosophia” is a Greek word meaning “love of wisdom.” Such a love pursues, with great zeal, the fundamental and the transcendent questions of human life. Philosophy seeks, ultimately, to unify human understanding in a universal or integrative vision of all reality.
One course in ethics or political philosophy.

**THE KOSSEL CONCENTRATION**

The Kossel concentration is named after Clifford Kossel, S.J., who taught Thomistic philosophy at Gonzaga for many years. The concentration is open to all students who seek a Philosophy major that emphasizes Catholic thought. It is also designed to provide preparation for advanced professional study of theology. It includes all the requirements for the philosophy major with specialized pre-theology courses. In addition to the philosophy major, Kossel students must complete one year of Latin studies (8 credits).

*For more information about the Philosophy Department and its courses, please visit www.gonzaga.edu/philosophy or consult the Gonzaga course catalogue at www.gonzaga.edu/catalogues

**OUTCOMES**

With its focus on central and fundamental questions about reality, truth, and meaning, philosophy is at the heart of the academic life. Philosophical reasoning and familiarity with philosophical concepts and argumentation are therefore central components of intellectual formation. Philosophy hones analytical and communication skills by requiring students to discuss and write about complex ideas. Consequently, students with demanding professional career plans or a broad interest in the humanities will find the study of philosophy invaluable. A degree in and/or a strong knowledge of philosophy can be valuable when applying to a variety of professional schools that actively look for liberal arts majors, as well as for positions where employers value critical thinking, analytical reflection, and a strong understanding of human morality and values. Philosophy majors routinely outperform other undergraduate majors on the standardized entrance tests for graduate programs in the humanities, business, and the sciences.

Recent Gonzaga Philosophy graduates have attended the following graduate programs in philosophy:

- Boston College
- Georgetown University
- Purdue University
- Arizona State University
- University of Notre Dame
- Loyola University Chicago
- Marquette University

Gonzaga students majoring in philosophy also often pursue graduate studies in law, medicine, public administration, business, and the social sciences.

Some recent fields of employment for Philosophy graduates have included:

- Computer Networking
- Education (many levels)
- Health Care Administration
- Politics/Government Work
- Publishing
THE PEOPLE
A Sample of Faculty Published Works and Accomplishments:

Mark Alfino

Kirk Besmer

David Calhoun


Brian Clayton & Richard McClelland

Brian Henning


Thomas Jeannot

Michael Tkacz


Ellen Maccarone
“The Ethics of Advocacy: Scientists and Environmental Policy.” Environmental Philosophy, 2. (Spring 2005).

Erik Schmidt

Rose Mary Volbrecht

*See back page for a full list of faculty members.
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