Did you know?

Philosophy majors have a high admission rate to medical school.

Philosophy majors are among the highest average scores of all majors on the LSAT, GRE, and GMAT.

At Gonzaga, students can double major in philosophy and another discipline.

Gonzaga philosophy students often go to law school, graduate school or to seminary.

For more complete descriptions of the philosophy programs, please consult the Gonzaga University catalog at http://www.gonzaga.edu/catalogues. Students can also visit the Philosophy department’s website at www.gonzaga.edu/philosophy.

For questions about Bishop White Seminary, email bws@gonzaga.edu or log onto bishopwhiteseminary.com.
“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

—Socrates

Why?

With this little word, human beings first enter the world of philosophy, the passionate quest for understanding that has been at the heart of humanistic, Catholic, and Jesuit education since the time of Plato, Augustine, and Ignatius of Loyola.

Indeed, Aloysius Gonzaga himself was a philosophy student in 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 existence. Philosophy seeks, ultimately, to unify human understanding in a universal or integrative vision of all reality.

At Gonzaga, undergraduate students are invited to enter the philosophic quest through four programs of study: the Core program, Minor program, Major program, and Kossel Track program. Gonzaga philosophy courses also serve as components of interdisciplinary concentrations in Catholic studies, environmental studies, and women’s studies. Gonzaga philosophy courses are also offered in the Gonzaga-in-Florence study abroad program, and internships in health care ethics are available to advanced students. With more than 20 full-time members and many part-time members, the philosophy faculty at Gonzaga University is among the largest in the western United States.

Core

Because the sustained study of philosophy is at the very heart of any education that is Catholic, Jesuit and humanistic, all Gonzaga University students complete this four-course philosophy sequence.

Critical Thinking. The philosophical component of the Gonzaga Freshman Studies Block, this course is an introduction to the basic tools and skills of thinking and reasoning.

Philosophy of Human Nature. This course initiates students into the study of the human condition, the meaning and value of human life, and the human relationship to ultimate reality.

Ethics. An upper-division course that studies the goals of human life and the norms of moral behavior. It also seeks to apply those goals and norms to specific moral problems.

Advanced Study in Philosophy. All Gonzaga students must complete at least one course of their choosing at the 400-level. Examples of advanced courses include Business Ethics, Existentialism, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of C.S. Lewis, and Chinese Philosophy.

Minor

The Philosophy Minor program offers students the opportunity to deepen their philosophical interests after completing the Core program.

The Minor program features flexibility, since students are permitted to choose any three advanced (400-level) courses. The total number of credits needed for the Philosophy Minor is 20, of which 11 are satisfied through the completion of the Core program.

At Gonzaga, philosophy courses are also offered in the Gonzaga-in-Florence study abroad program, and internships in health care ethics are available to advanced students. With more than 20 full-time members and many part-time members, the philosophy faculty at Gonzaga University is among the largest in the western United States.

Major

Upon completing the first three courses of the Core sequence (Critical Thinking, Philosophy of Human Nature, and Ethics), students may enroll in the Philosophy Major program, which has three distinctive features.

Collegial Bookend Seminars. Majors take the proseminar as they begin their work on the Major and a capstone, senior seminar as they finish it. The proseminar introduces majors to the principal topics in philosophy and emphasizes practice in philosophical writing. The senior seminar focuses on topics in metaphysics and epistemology; it also emphasizes philosophical writing.

History of Philosophy Sequence. Majors complete a four-course sequence on the history of philosophy, including ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophy.

Flexible Elective Courses. Majors also complete four advanced (400-level) courses in areas of their choosing. This enables advanced students the opportunity to customize their Philosophy major.

Kossel Track

The Kossel Track is named after Clifford Kossel, S.J., who taught Thomistic philosophy at Gonzaga for many years. It is designed for all students who seek a Philosophy Major program that emphasizes Catholic thought. Bishop White seminarians in particular pursue this major in preparation for theological studies. In addition to the Collegial Bookend Seminars and the History of Philosophy Sequence of the Philosophy Major program, the Kossel Track program includes the following.

Area Courses. Kossel students take three courses in traditional areas of Catholic philosophy: Christian Metaphysics, Theory of Knowledge, and either Faith and Reason or Philosophy of God.

Supporting Elective Course. Kossel students complete an additional advanced elective course of their choosing.

Additional Religion Study. Kossel students complete at least one course on Catholicism beyond the three courses of the religious studies core program.

Latin Study. Kossel students complete at least one full year of Latin language.