Portrait of the Major

Philosophy students learn how mankind’s greatest and most profound thinkers have answered basic and perennial questions about human life, such as mortality, our knowledge of the world, the existence of God, the relation between mind and body, and the conditions of a just society. Thiel’s philosophy curriculum provides a foundation in all the traditional areas of philosophy and is specifically designed to develop your ability to create your own well developed philosophical position.

Curriculum Highlights

Above all, a philosophy major pursues and appreciates critical, independent reasoning. At Thiel, you’ll practice such skills in a variety of venues: by examining the history of philosophical thought, by applying ethical principles to practical contemporary problems, by learning and utilizing formal logical principles, and through individualized study of contemporary philosophical debates.

Special Features

By studying philosophy at Thiel College, you’ll be able to:

• Become a “thinker”—you’ll learn the skills of extracting the principal points from complex material, evaluating the soundness of the arguments involved and justifying your position on any given topic. Philosophical training will help you develop sophisticated skills that are valuable in almost any career field, from business to law to technical scientific fields.

• Work with dedicated professors in a supportive and challenging atmosphere—you’ll work closely with Ph.D. degree-holding professors in seminar-style classes, interact with other students in the Philosophy Club and apply your skills in real-world settings of hospital, law court and government internships. The department’s small size allows professors to directly guide your academic development.

Career and Graduate School Outlook

A philosophy degree is one of the most versatile college degrees, and one of the most practical. Philosophy majors are top-scorers on graduate entrance exams such as the LSAT and GRE and many philosophy majors apply their skill-sets to careers that demand a high degree of competence in analytic problem solving. Common post-college options for our majors include law school and further graduate-level education in philosophy itself, or specialized certificate programs leading to careers in corporate or medical ethics. Some former Thiel College philosophy graduates are currently college professors, lawyers, clergy, business owners, accountants, and school teachers. By mid-career, philosophy graduates’ salaries are much higher than for most other majors. (The Wall Street Journal, http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees_that_Pay_you_Back-sort.html)

Contact Information

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Thiel as a Liberal arts college has enabled and encouraged me to take a wide array of classes. This ignited interests for me and allowed me to delve a little deeper. The atmosphere of the small campus is very warm and welcoming and leads to smaller classrooms. This is a very effective way for me to learn. This holds true especially for my philosophy and religion classes. There is a greater opportunity for one-on-one help between student and professor, and I accomplish more because of that. Thiel’s campus is beautiful and open, which I find to be very helpful for my learning experience. Thiel has helped me deepen as a person, not only mentally, but spiritually and emotionally.”

“Whether you are considering ministry, an academic career, or simply taking courses to enrich your intellectual or professional interests, you’ll find more than adequate space for your questions and interests to be accommodated. The faculty meet you in the middle; encouraging you on your path and pushing you to think in various ways about how the human experience is shaped. Faculty become more like mentors rather than just instructors. Thiel helped me become a better thinker, communicator, and engaged citizen. Professional organizations and employers value individuals who can think clearly, communicate effectively, and engage problems with a distinct awareness about the world they inhabit.”

Go to www.thiel.edu/visit and schedule your individual academic visit today!