



**ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

ABOUT THE B.A. IN PHILOSOPHY

The discipline of philosophy is among the oldest intellectual pursuits, but it has never been more relevant or necessary than it is today. Important developments have prompted serious questions: How has modern science challenged our understanding of ultimate reality? How does technology alter the nature of the human community? How does globalization challenge and inform our ethical and political principles? The Bachelor of Arts program in Philosophy at St. John's University investigates these and other vital issues in the contemporary world, all while developing your critical intelligence, intellectual confidence, written and oral communication skills, and independence of thought.

Our program combines structure and flexibility. We provide a strong foundation in the history of philosophy. You study pivotal figures such as Plato, Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, René Descartes, Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Ludwig Wittgenstein. You also learn about the major branches of philosophy: ethics, metaphysics, political philosophy, the philosophy of science, the philosophy of art, and logic. Within the structured framework of the curriculum, you have the flexibility to shape your studies to suit your individual interests and career goals. For example, we offer many elective courses that allow you to develop a concentration in law, science, theology, politics, art, or literature, to name a few.

Our faculty members have international reputations in some of the most important areas of contemporary philosophy. They are eager to share their research and passion for their work, very often involving students in collaborative projects.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A B.A. IN PHILOSOPHY?

Because of its emphasis on the development of analytical skills, ethical values, and historical perspective, our philosophy program prepares students for most professional and academic pursuits. Our graduates excel in many diverse fields, including education, health care administration, journalism, law, medicine, ministry, public administration and social work.

A philosophy major is especially good preparation for law school. You develop the logical and analytical skills required for sound legal reasoning, as well as the theoretical and ethical perspective from which to understand law and its function in society. Because of its broad scope, philosophy pairs well with other fields of a study as a double major, providing depth and perspective to enrich all academic pursuits. Our students successfully pursue philosophical studies to enhance their understanding of disciplines such as biology, English, government and politics, history, physics, psychology, sociology and anthropology, and theology.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy offers a rigorous and comprehensive program in a supportive environment. Our low student-to-faculty ratio, enables us to work individually with you to ensure that your experience is interesting, enjoyable, and optimally beneficial. We invite you to join Phi Sigma Tau, the International Honor Society in Philosophy, through which we provide a range of social and academic activities, such as graduate and law school information sessions, film nights and discussions, and student and faculty debates on contemporary issues. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and invite you to contact me or visit the office.

Kevin Kennedy, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
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RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Prospective employers in all fields value the critical intelligence developed through the study of philosophy. As a student in the program, you have the opportunity to publish your work in undergraduate journals and present research at student and professional conferences. These experiences develop your confidence, improve your written and oral communication skills, and allow you to build your academic and professional network, all of which will contribute to success in any career path you pursue.

You can also add an international, experiential dimension to your study of philosophy through St. John's Global Studies opportunities. These programs include Discover the World: Europe, during which you will study in three countries in just one semester, as well as semester-length study on the Rome and Paris campuses. For more information about study abroad, please visit stjohns.edu/global.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

St. John's University strives to place an outstanding higher education within the financial reach of all qualified applicants. Each academic year, the Office of Student Financial Services awards more than \$500 million in aid to students who demonstrate financial need. The Office of Undergraduate Admission also awards highly competitive academic scholarships.

For more information about scholarships and financial aid, please visit stjohns.edu/services/financial.

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS

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ADMISSION INFORMATION

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