

# III. PHILOSOPHY

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## The Program

The philosophy major and minor provide intensive training in reasoning skills that are useful in any area of study and are essential for the development of a Christian worldview. They also provide a broad historical background to Western thought and equip students with the ability to address fundamental issues of concern to all persons. This training could serve as a valuable base for more advanced studies in graduate, law, medical, or divinity school. The small size of the curriculum for the philosophy major allows this program to be used by many students as a second major.

## Philosophy

The philosophy major introduces the students to the principle figures and schools of thought in Western and non-Western philosophic traditions. The major problems in ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology; the principle methods of formal logic; and the most important philosophical issues related to religious belief are explored. The student is helped to think logically and clearly, communicate cogently and effectively, and identify and insightfully explore fundamental issues arising in life and learning.

## Planning Your Academic Program

In planning your program at Messiah, turn to the Philosophy section in the catalog to find an example of a typical kind of program for your major. Keep in mind that this is only a suggested program. The actual courses required are those listed under Major Requirements. They are also listed on the checklist in this handbook.

To help you plan, the following list of major courses is *typically* offered:

### EVERY YEAR

Problems in Philosophy  
Philosophy Seminar

History of Philosophy

### ALTERNATE YEARS

Philosophy of Religion  
Moral Problems  
Modern Philosophy  
Introduction to Logic  
Ancient and Medieval Philosophy  
Aesthetics  
Contemporary Continental Philosophy

Philosophy of Science  
Asian Philosophy  
Ethics  
Epistemology and Metaphysics  
Topics in Philosophy

### Remember:

1. Completion of all major and general education requirements with a minimum of a total of 123 credit hours.
2. The last thirty (30) credits preceding the conferring of the degree must be earned at Messiah College with a minimum of twelve (12) credits in the major.
3. To continue at Messiah, you will need to maintain a cumulative grade point of 1.8 (0–23 credits), 1.9 (24–56 credits), and 2.0 (57 credits or above).
4. All students are required to take and pass the English Proficiency Test.

## Guideline for Mathematical Sciences Courses

There is no specific math course required for the Philosophy major. We recommend students enroll in MATH101, MATH102, MATH107, or COSC171 in their first year, unless they have had a precalculus course; then they should consider MATH108. Statistical literacy is another important area of mathematical study, and STAT269 is a course that gives a good introduction to statistical methods and meets the General Education requirement.

### **Students with Advanced Placement credit:**

Requirements for courses in mathematical sciences can be met through Advanced Placement exam credit. Students who have taken AP exams in calculus, computer science, or statistics should go to the math department's website (<http://www.messiah.edu/acdept/depthome/mathsci/APCredit.htm>) to find out how credit is awarded for your scores.

# Philosophy

(Department of Philosophy)

General Education requirements on reverse side

## Major Requirements

<u>Major Courses</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Semester Completed</u>
One of the following:	3	_____
[PHIL 101] Problems in Philosophy (3)		_____
[PHIL 102] History of Philosophy (3)		_____
[PHIL 220] Introduction to Logic	3	_____
[PHIL 247] Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	3	_____
[PHIL 253] Modern Philosophy	3	_____
[PHIL 310] Contemporary Continental Philosophy	3	_____
[PHIL 318] Asian Philosophy	3	_____
[PHIL 341] Epistemology and Metaphysics	3	_____
[PHIL 345] Philosophy of Religion	3	_____
One of the following:	3	_____
[PHIL 325] Moral Problems (3)		_____
[PHIL 382] Ethics (3)		_____
[PHIL 460] Philosophy Seminar	3	_____
300-level PHIL electives (6 credits)	6	_____

# Philosophy

(Department of Philosophy)

*Major requirements on reverse side*

## General Education Requirements

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Semester Completed</u>
First Year Seminar	3	_____
Oral Communications	3	_____
Created and Called for Community	3	_____
Mathematical Sciences	3 or 4	_____
Laboratory Science	3 or 4	_____
Science, Technology & the World	3	_____
Two of the following:	6	_____
Social Science (3 credits)		_____
European History (3 credits)		_____
United States History (3 credits)		_____
Literature	3	_____
Philosophy and Religion ([PHIL 101] or [PHIL 102])	3	met by major
Arts	3	_____
Language/Cross Cultural		
First Semester of Language	3	_____
Second Semester of Language	3	_____
Third Semester of Language or Cross Cultural	3	_____
Non-Western Studies ([PHIL 318])	2 or 3	met by major
Bible	3	_____
Christian Beliefs	3	_____
Health and Physical Fitness		
Introduction to Wellness	2	_____
Activity Course	1	_____
One of the following:	3	_____
Ethics (3 credits – [PHIL 325] or [PHIL 382])		met by major
World Views (3 credits – [PHIL 345])		met by major
Pluralism in Contemporary Society (3 credits)		_____
Writing Enriched Course		_____

### SUMMARY OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

General Education	48-50
Major Requirements	36
Free Electives	37-39
Total	123

## Philosophy

Career Center for Vocation and Development, Messiah College

The Career Center offers comprehensive services to all students throughout their program of study. From identifying skills and personality traits, to choosing a major, to gaining related experience and preparing for graduate school or job interviews, the staff at the Career Center are available at every step along the path.

### Identification of Strengths

Common characteristics and skills of students pursuing study in the Department of Philosophy:

- Ability to interact with people of varying ages and backgrounds
- Proficiency in reading, writing, and oral communication
- Ability to integrate and carry out one's job responsibilities with one's religious faith
- Perseverance, integrity, and wisdom
- Willingness to continue learning throughout life
- Ability to think logically and formulate analogies
- Ability to clarify, analyze, and solve difficult and vague problems
- Skilled in organizing ideas and issues
- Desire to continue learning throughout life

We can help you identify your strengths through individual career counseling and self-assessment inventories like the Myers-Briggs, Self-Directed Search, and the Strong Interest Inventory. Understanding your unique skills and interests allows you to translate your personal characteristics into professional opportunities.

### Resources for Career Exploration and Employment Connections

- *Individual Career Coaching; creating a Career Plan*
- *Careers for Caring People and Other Sensitive Types*
- *Careers for Women as Clergy*
- *Choosing a Vocation*
- *East + West: Christian Organizations*
- *Intercristo's Career Kit*
- *Opportunities in Religious Service Careers*
- *What to Expect in Seminary*
- Individual handouts— "I'm interested in..." e.g. Philosophy
- Individual handouts— "What can I do with this degree?" e.g. Philosophy
- Alumni Contacts for Information Interviews & Job Shadowing
- On-campus Recruitment and Interviews
- *Career Center Alumni Survey of Recent Grads*
- *Job Choices* magazines
- *E-Recruiting Service* <http://messiah.erecruiting.com>
- *Careers for Dreamers and Doers*
- *Non-Profits Job Finder*
- *Mission Handbook (North American Protestant Ministries Overseas)*
- *National Evangelical Directory*
- *The GO Manual – Global Opportunities in Youth with a Mission (YWAM)*
- *The Great Commission Handbook*
- *The Short-Term Mission Handbook*
- *Today's Tentmakers: Self-Support: An Alternative Model for Worldwide Witness*

# CAREER CENTER

*"The cross-cultural experience opened my mind and made me more aware of other cultures. I will never forget the experience and the valuable life lesson learned."*

–'00 Grad

## Internship Center

The Internship Center offers off-campus exploration and internships to all majors and can help you explore career areas through the following:

- Internships
- Practica

## Sample Internship Opportunities

- Pastoral Ministries and local churches
- Writing, non-profit organizations
- Research & Writing, state government
- Ministry Leadership, church and community organizations
- Administration/volunteer coordination, professional associations

## Career and Job Preparation Assistance

- Individual Career Coaching
- *Career action plan*
- “Snapshots of Vocation”—alumni stories (brochure and website)
- Senior focus events—sponsored by the Career Center and Alumni Office
- Resume and cover letter development, samples, and individual critiques
- Job and Graduate School Preparation Workshops
- Interview preparation and practice interviews
- Job and Graduate School Fairs
- Workshops on a variety of career-related topics
- Online job and resume posting (<http://messiah.erecruiting.com>)

## College-Sponsored Job and Internship Fairs

- Career & Graduate School Expo
- Capital Region Internship Fair
- CPEC Internship and Job Fair
- CVC Internship and Job Fair
- Liberal Arts Fair
- TRD (Teacher Recruitment Day)

## Home Page Connections [www.messiah.edu/offices/career](http://www.messiah.edu/offices/career)

Visit our home page to access information on majors, employment opportunities, graduate and professional school preparation, and alumni stories of vocation. A complete calendar of events and registration options, resume referrals, and sign-up options for on-campus interviews are available through eRecruiting. Visit job searches by major, as well as general employment information.

## Graduate School Preparation

- *Graduate School Handbook*
- Assistance with graduate and professional school resumes, essays, applications, and interviews
- The *Graduate School Guide* and the *Christian Graduate* magazine (both free)
- Peterson’s grad school directories; test preparation booklets and guides
- Graduate School Fair and Seminary & Theological Studies Fair—held on campus, fall semester
- Gradschools.com—one of many sites for graduate school and program searches
- Kaplan Practice Test Sessions: GRE, GMAT, LSAT, and MCAT
- Celebration Reception for students accepted to grad school

# C A R E E R C E N T E R

*“I used the Resume Critique service at the Career Center and found it beneficial. My focus now is on graduate school... The Career Center was of great value in helping me decide where to apply and how to write a good application and essay.”*

—’99 Grad



# Philosophy

EpiCenter, Messiah College

Although EpiCenter programs are open to all students, there are some programs that may be of particular interest to students in the Department of Philosophy. Below is a description of these opportunities. For more details, stop by the EpiCenter.

**“The world is a great book, of which they who never stir from home read only a page.”**

**Resources available in the EpiCenter include:**

- Applications
- Brochures / Catalogs / Videos
- Course Listings
- International Student Identity Cards
- Fact Sheets
- Passport Photos

**Information is provided about:**

- Costs
- Deadlines
- Names of Program Advisors
- Passports
- Requirements
- Traveling/Studying Abroad

### China Studies Program

Students will learn the Chinese language, history, and culture through classroom instruction, by traveling around the country, and by being conversation partners with Chinese students.

- ✓ Junior or senior status
- ✓ 2.75 GPA

Course available in “Eastern Philosophy and Religions.”

### LCC International University

Witness history in the making while studying at Klaipeda, Lithuania. Part of the former Soviet Union, Lithuania is home to LCC International University which serves students from a number of Eastern European nations.

- ✓ Sophomore, junior, or senior status
- ✓ 2.5 GPA

Courses offered include “Introduction to Philosophy” and “Moral Philosophy.”

### Oregon Extension

Each fall in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, thirty students gather to study Contemporary Society, Social Analysis and Theory, the Human Condition, and Christian Faith at the Oregon Extension.

- ✓ Junior or senior status (will accept some sophomores)
- ✓ 3.0 GPA

Students can choose to study topics such as “Social Issues in Philosophical Perspectives,” “Philosophical Perspectives on the Human Condition,” and “Selected Topics in the Philosophy of Religion.”

### Philadelphia Campus

Studying in Philadelphia allows students to have the benefits of a large university and the closeness of a small community as they experience an urban culture.

- ✓ Sophomore, junior, or senior status
- ✓ 2.5 GPA

Students take one course from a Messiah professor and the remainder of their courses (including philosophy courses) at Temple University.

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*“The most rewarding thing for me, has been being able to live within a culture, seeing it from the inside. Through this, I learned to appreciate the Greek ways of thinking and living, (in a way) I could not by looking at the culture from the outside...”*

—Alumni,  
University of  
LaVerne Athens  
(Greece)

### **Student Visitor Program**

Students can study at or take part in off-campus study programs at any of the schools that make up the Christian College Consortium.

- ✓ Sophomore, junior, or senior status
- ✓ Good academic standing

A variety of philosophy courses are available from the 12 schools in the Christian College Consortium.

### **Philipps University**

Messiah students can strengthen their language skills by spending a semester or a year studying at the oldest Protestant university in the world. Students live with German families or may be permitted to live in Schloss castle.

- ✓ Junior or senior status
- ✓ Four semesters of college-level German are required
- ✓ 3.0 GPA

This program offers a number of courses in religion and philosophy.

### **University of Gloucestershire**

Located in southwestern England (near the border of Wales). University of Gloucestershire is home to the BCA program in the UK. Messiah students experience British life in the quaint English town of Cheltenham. Students also travel to historical and cultural locations around the country.

- ✓ Sophomore, junior, or senior status
- ✓ 2.7 GPA

Courses in Philosophy are available.

*To discover more opportunities, visit the EpiCenter Online:  
[www.messiah.edu/studyabroad](http://www.messiah.edu/studyabroad)*

*For More Information Contact:  
Wendy Lippert (ext. 6089) or Fatih Minnich (ext. 7373)  
[epicenter@messiah.edu](mailto:epicenter@messiah.edu)*

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