

Philosophy Major Honors Program:

The Philosophy Department has created the major honors program for several reasons. The program we have developed allows students who excel in the major to pursue additional courses in philosophical topics of their choice. It allows students to get a more extensive philosophical education. It enables students to pursue philosophical research and develop their writing. The program enhances the preparation and competitiveness of those students who wish to go on to graduate studies in philosophy, law, or other fields.

The program also allows the department to recognize outstanding student achievement. And it is an important development for the caliber and growth of the department.

What are the requirements for the program?

The Honors program is an optional program for Philosophy majors who qualify. Students in any of the existing three areas: general Philosophy major, Applied Ethics and Law concentration, Logic and Philosophy of Science concentration, may apply to the program. Non-majors may not apply.

Majors, in addition to the existing requirements for the philosophy major Bachelors degree, will:

1. Complete 9 upper division units (100+) of philosophy courses, with at least 3 of those units at the 190 or higher level.

Upon applying and being accepted into the program, students must develop a proposed plan of courses with approval from the Honors committee. This plan may be changed later with approval.

2. Write a supervised Honors Thesis in a philosophical area of their interest.

Students must write and submit a proposal for their Honors Thesis to the Honors committee in order to fulfill part of the honors program requirements.

3. Maintain a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA, and get a B or better (not B-) in their Honors classes.

Students may retake one course if they receive a grade below a B in order to maintain Honors Program eligibility.

Any of the existing (or to be developed) upper level and 190+ level Philosophy courses may be applied towards the Honors Major Program requirements.

Students who complete the Honors Program will be recognized for their work with a certificate at graduation and their transcripts will receive Honors Degree certification. They will receive an Honors tassel at graduation. And it is anticipated that professors in the department who are writing letters of recommendation for those students will be able to base their recommendations (in part) on the student's work in the Honors Program.