



Augustana offers a 27-credit **major in philosophy**, and a 21-credit **minor in philosophy**.

Courses fall within one of four general areas: logic and critical reasoning, introduction to and history of philosophy, special subjects, and individual and advanced studies.

The college also offers a related **minor in ethics**, with a curriculum and faculty based in philosophy and religion.

For details and course descriptions, see augustana.edu/catalog.

Philosophy at Augustana College

Why philosophy?

The central concerns of philosophy are the nature of reality, thought, experience and value. Philosophers have deep interests in the great and abstract questions related to human life—questions that also are essential to a liberal arts education.

In college, students of philosophy might combine philosophical studies with other disciplines such as the sciences, literature, mathematics or art.

Why Augustana?

Courses and faculty expertise in the department cover the full spectrum of philosophical interests, from the history of science to aesthetics, phenomenology and existentialism.

The program approaches the study of philosophy in three ways: topics, texts and tools. All students can become familiar with critical texts and develop reasoning techniques to improve their skills as thinkers, speakers and writers.

All five of the full-time faculty have a Ph.D. Given the overlap of philosophical questions and the liberal arts, many of the faculty also teach in the college's general education studies.

One philosophy professor directs the college's partnership with the prestigious undergraduate summer internship program at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, for students in any field interested in any aspect of health care.

Internships and career preparation

Augustana students can earn academic credit for internships. Recent examples for philosophy majors include Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance; Finding Balance counseling center; Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard in Chicago; and the Red Cross in China.

Philosophy majors pursue graduate studies in philosophy or combine their major with a career focus in law, journalism, the ministry, education, the health professions, or another field.

Augustana philosophy grads have gone on to advanced study in some of the best graduate schools in the country, including Yale Law School, Harvard Law School, Princeton Theological Seminary and Notre Dame.

Augustana College

What alumni say

I knew I wanted to be an accounting major, but I wanted to do something more at Augie than just learn how to be an accountant. I decided that philosophy would be a great complement to my major, and the decision turned out even better than I had expected, since philosophy is more than just a complement to my major: it's a complement to my growth as an individual.

Eric Ersparmer '11, philosophy, accounting and business administration-finance

Tax Accountant at Wolf & Co., LLP, Chicago

Triple-majoring helped me gain a lot of perspective and helped with crossdisciplinary research. My senior project in political science was about political theory, which is a marriage of philosophy and political science. I used my Augie Choice money for a three-week trip to Berlin through a couple classes I took during the spring of my junior year. The classes for this trip were a learning community, which examines one issue from an interdisciplinary perspective. Essentially this meant looking at German history and the role philosophy played in it, and the trip to Berlin helped us experience and visualize the places and ideas we had only been reading about in class.

I am currently working as an assistant director for Wisconsin Environment in their Madison office. It's a great job working for a political non-profit and I've been given a lot of responsibility right away. Augustana really prepared me to be a leader and made me interested in both the political field as well as in making a difference!

Andrew Heidtke '13, philosophy, political science and economics

Assistant Director for Wisconsin Environment, Madison



My time and education at Augustana College were more than formative—they were life-changing. From elementary school on, I knew I was a scientist even if I did not know how one goes about becoming a scientist professionally. But at Augustana College, I learn that

scientific investigation is more than a series of hypotheses and experiments about the world, but also is a fundamental exercise in how we define and communicate knowledge, which are central themes of epistemology and philosophy of language.

My studies in philosophy at Augustana College better prepared me for a career in biomedical research by teaching me how to dissect curiosities down to a core question of importance and identify those gaps in our knowledge that need to be filled by scientific investigation.

Dr. Joseph Hyser '99, philosophy and biology

Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology, Baylor College of Medicine

