

SMSU PHILOSOPHY



EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM

Philosophy is unlike any other field of study. It is unique both in its methods and in the nature and breadth of its subject matter. Philosophy pursues questions in every dimension of human life, and its approach applies to problems in any field of study or endeavor. As a discipline it encourages students to reject simple solutions to complex issues; it enhances their ability to perceive the relationships among the various fields of study, and it deepens their sense of the meaning and varieties of the human experience.

At Southwest Minnesota State, the philosophy major and minor seek to instill in students a regard for reasoned approach to the solution of perplexing questions, a heightened critical sense, and a degree of philosophical detachment which allows the student to achieve a broader and deeper perspective on pressing human issues. The major at Southwest Minnesota State is small enough to allow students to combine it with virtually any other major in the university. The faculty in the program are committed to the ideal of a broad, liberal education as the best possible preparation for a world in which the only certainty is change.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Philosophy majors annually score at or near the top of all majors taking the GRE and LSAT.

According to PayScale.com's 2013-2014 College Salary Report, Philosophy majors with a Bachelor's degree and no higher degree had a higher median mid-career salary than Marketing & Communications, Accounting, and Business Administration majors with a Bachelor's degree and no higher degree.

In a 2013 article for Salon.com titled "Be Employable, Study Philosophy," Shannon Rupp argued that philosophy classes teach something "applicable to any and every job: clarity of thought. Name me one aspect of your life that doesn't benefit from being able to think something through clearly."

In a 2010 article for Businessweek.com titled "Philosophy is Back in Business," Dov Seidman called Philosophy a "killer app" for "the financial and climate crises, global consumption habits, and other 21st-century challenges."

Bill Clinton, Pope John Paul II, Phil Jackson, Katharine Hepburn, Harrison Ford, Bruce Lee, Pearl S. Buck, and Mary Higgins Clark all majored in Philosophy.



"My philosophical background allows me to understand my own beliefs and how I came to have those beliefs, but has been very beneficial in my interaction with others. I can understand their lines of thoughts and beliefs, have a sense of empathy to people and their beliefs, and then talk with them and discuss issues in an understanding and professional manner."

Trent Redfield '00
Philosophy & History
minor in American Indian Studies/Dakota Studies
Event Program Coordinator of the
Grizzly & World Discovery Center
West Yellowstone, Montana

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

College graduates who have majored or minored in philosophy have continued on to graduate or professional schools, and have achieved success in the widest possible array of fields imaginable. Course work in philosophy is excellent preparation for the study of law, ministry, government service, business, journalism and other careers in the liberal arts and sciences.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Incoming students may be eligible for a number of academic and leadership scholarships through the Office of Admission. These scholarships are awarded based on a student's past academic record, including the ACT, class rank, GPA, and leadership potential.

ACTIVITIES

Our philosophy students have the opportunity to expand their learning horizons and sharpen their leadership skills through such groups as the Philosophy Club, the Honors Club, Campus Greens, Environmental Awareness Club, Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Alliance, Lion's Club, Student Anti-Genocide Coalition (STAND), and the SMSU student government. The acclaimed Global Studies Program and other special projects provide additional opportunities for philosophy majors.

FACILITIES

Students have access to e-mail and the World Wide Web via SMSU's Macintosh and PC labs as well as the library's online computer system.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about SMSU's Philosophy Program, visit us on the web at:

www.smsu.edu/academics/programs/philosophy



For more career information go to Mustangjobs.com and click on "Choosing a Career/Major"

Career Opportunities

- Graduate or professional schools
- Preparation for the study of law
- Ministry
- Government Service
- Business
- Journalism

FRESHMAN ADMISSION PROCESS

- Complete Application
- \$20 Non-refundable Application Fee
- Official High School Transcript(s)
- ACT or SAT Test Scores

FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Rank in the upper half of graduating class
or
- Score a composite of 21 or above on the ACT or 990 on the SAT

LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Liberal Education Program (LEP) at Southwest Minnesota State University provides students with the opportunity to obtain a solid, general education across the fundamental domains of human knowledge. When empowered with these ideas, facts, skills, and values, students can understand and effectively participate in the affairs of the community, nation, and wider world. The Liberal Education Program is built upon ten Student Learning Outcomes which were developed by the faculty to represent the foundation of higher education.



For more information please contact: The Philosophy Program at (507) 537-7206.

A Member of the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities System. SMSU is an equal opportunity educator & employer. ADA Accessible.