

## What good is a philosophy major?

Students declaring an intention to go to graduate school in philosophy score higher on the **Graduate Record Examination** (GRE) than 46 out of 50 major fields.

Philosophy students score **higher than every other major field** in the arts and humanities, the social sciences, the life sciences, education, and business.

On the **Law School Admission Test** (LSAT) and the **Graduate Management Admission Test** (GMAT), philosophy students score **higher than majors in all of these fields**: political science, history, economics, sociology, business, education, biology, chemistry, and engineering.

Philosophy prepares you for whatever career challenges you'll face later in life. Philosophy students have the scores to prove it. Tell that to the next person who asks what good a philosophy major is!



### Dig deeper—contact us:

Dr. Stephen Maitzen, Head  
Department of Philosophy  
Acadia University  
Wolfville, NS, Canada B4P 2R6  
Telephone: (902) 585-1261

Email: [smaitzen@acadiau.ca](mailto:smaitzen@acadiau.ca)  
Web: [philosophy.acadiau.ca](http://philosophy.acadiau.ca)



Dig  
deeper  
Philosophy

**Philosophy teaches you to dig beneath the surface of issues, to uncover hidden assumptions, to grasp the essence of things. Tired of skimming the surface? Dig deeper. Try philosophy.**

# Philosophy at Acadia

The “Academics” page of the Acadia website begins with these words:

At Acadia, we teach you to question. Our faculty members will challenge you to think critically. To debate and engage. And to enjoy intellectually challenging academic programs.

No other department at Acadia matches the Philosophy Department in its focus on critical thinking and the pursuit of intellectual challenge for the intrinsic rewards it offers. Our award-winning teachers and rigorous program produce highly successful graduates.

## Recent students in our program...

- won the Webster Award (\$5833) for top student researchers at Acadia, two years in a row
- won the prestigious **Presidential Graduate Fellowship** at MIT
- gained admission to **graduate school** at Brown, Carleton, Cornell, Dalhousie, Harvard, Indiana, Memorial, MIT, Ottawa, Princeton, Purdue, Queen’s, Simon Fraser, Toronto, UBC, Victoria, Western Ontario, and York
- gained admission to **law school** at Dalhousie, Osgoode Hall, Ottawa, Queen’s, and Wales
- gained admission to **medical school** at Dalhousie and Memorial
- won **graduate scholarships** totaling more than \$750,000

## Faculty members



**Paul Abela** (DPhil, Oxford)

*Research interests:* The philosophy of Kant, environmental philosophy, and contemporary atheism. Current research is focused on a book-length treatment of the moral/social impact of emerging twenty-first-century atheism.



**Stephen Maitzen** (PhD, Cornell),

Department Head. *Research interests:* Skepticism and the theory of knowledge; vagueness and ontology; the conceptual impact of theism on human

morality; the concept of ultimacy in regard to being, value, and purpose; the perennial question “Why is there something rather than nothing at all?”



**Marc Ramsay** (PhD, Western)

*Research interests:* Ethics and philosophy of law; constitutional rights and judicial review; children’s rights; philosophical issues in private law; theories of

equality; egalitarianism; parents’ rights in the moral education of children.



**Anna Frammartino Wilks** (PhD,

Toronto) *Research interests:* Metaphysics and epistemology in Kant and Early Modern philosophy; causality, substance and the self; the application of Kant’s theory of experience to problems in the

philosophy of biology, mind, and artificial intelligence.



**Ian Wilks** (PhD, Toronto) *Research*

*interests:* Medieval philosophy, especially 12th-century logical theory; philosophy of religion and current debates over the problem of evil; bioethics, with particular emphasis on the notion of mental

competence; ethics and the history of virtue theory.

## Degree programs

Philosophy courses may be taken as Arts electives or to fulfill a philosophy Minor (24h), B.A. Major (42h), B.A. with Honours (54h), or a multidisciplinary program. For more information, consult the Philosophy Department Head or [philosophy.acadiau.ca](http://philosophy.acadiau.ca) and click on **Programs** at the top of the page.

## Courses offered

- 1106 Introduction to Philosophy
- 1113 The Examined Life in the Information Age
- 1413 God, Ethics, and Justice
- 1423 Freedom, Mind, and Knowledge
- 2003 The Pre-Socratics to Plato
- 2016 Early Modern Philosophy
- 2033 Aristotle and the Hellenistic Philosophers
- 2103 Aesthetics
- 2223 Existentialism
- 2233 Philosophy and Feminism
- 2303 Philosophy of the Environment
- 2306 Ethics
- 2403 Philosophy of Religion
- 2713 Biomedical Ethics
- 2803 Metaphysics
- 2813 Informal Logic
- 2823 Symbolic Logic
- 2913 Philosophy of Science
- 3013 Existentialism and Literature
- 3023 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
- 3113 Kant: *The Critique of Pure Reason*
- 3203 Philosophy of Law: Rights, Laws & Judges
- 3213 Philosophy of Law: Private Law
- 3223 Kantian Practical Reason
- 3313 Philosophy of Mind
- 3553 Contemporary Analytic Philosophy
- 3613 Contemporary Continental Philosophy
- 3903 Epistemology
- 4113 Topics in Social and Political Philosophy
- 4853 Philosophical Topics
- 4913/4923 Directed Readings
- 4996 Honours Thesis