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## PHILOSOPHY

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### FACULTY

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Associate Professor Aeon Skoble
<b>Professors:</b>	Robert Fitzgibbons, Edward James, Francine Quaglio
<b>Associate Professor:</b>	Catherine Womack
<b>Assistant Professor:</b>	Laura McAlinden

**Department Telephone Number: 508.531.1379**

**Location: Tillinghast Hall, Room 341**

**Web site: [www.bridgew.edu/Philosophy](http://www.bridgew.edu/Philosophy)**

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### DEGREE PROGRAM

- BA in Philosophy  
Concentration: Applied Ethics

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### UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

- Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy offers a major leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. A minor in philosophy is also available. The program in philosophy provides a solid foundation for entry into careers such as law, journalism, college teaching, management, and medical ethics, as well as preparation for graduate work in philosophy and related disciplines.

The study of philosophy involves the development of a broad range of analytical, interpretive, evaluative and critical abilities as they are applied to a variety of theoretical and practical human concerns. Courses in the problems, history, and methods of philosophy as a mode of critical thinking deal with questions about the priority of values, the status of knowledge, truth, and consciousness, the nature of art, religion, science and politics.

The department offers numerous opportunities for students to excel, provides models of intellectual excellence, and fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect and open-mindedness. Faculty advisers work closely with students who wish to plan a course of study within the philosophy program. Academically talented students should contact the department chairperson for details about its honors program. Extracurricular activities

include the Philosophy club, which gives students from all majors a chance to discuss philosophical topics in an open and constructive manner. The Club also sponsors the *Bridgewater Journal of Philosophy*, which publishes student research and essays.

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## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

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### PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

A minimum of ten philosophy courses (30 credits) is required. A grade of “C” or higher is required in all philosophy course work contributing to the major.

- One three-credit 100-level philosophy course
- At least one of the following courses in logic is required:  
PHIL 201 Rational Thinking  
PHIL 310 Symbolic Logic
- At least two of the following courses in the history of philosophy is required:  
PHIL 301 Plato and Aristotle  
PHIL 303 Major Modern Philosophers  
PHIL 305 American Philosophy
- At least two of the following area courses are required:  
PHIL 402 Knowledge and Truth  
PHIL 403 Ethics and Action  
PHIL 404 Mind and Language
- PHIL 450 Senior Seminar in Philosophy is required
- At least three additional courses in philosophy are required

### Core Curriculum Requirements

A minimum of 120 earned hours is required for graduation. These earned hours include Core Curriculum Requirements as specified in the “Undergraduate Academic Programs” section of this catalog. For additional graduation requirements, see the “Undergraduate Academic Policies” section of this catalog.

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### APPLIED ETHICS CONCENTRATION

Fulfill requirements for the philosophy major with at least four from the following distribution:

- PHIL 203 Happiness and the Meaning of Life
- PHIL 204 Sex and Personal Relations
- PHIL 205 Medical Ethics

PHIL 210 Liberation Ethics  
PHIL 322 Philosophy of Law  
PHIL 330 Amoralism, Egoism, and Altruism  
PHIL 334 Free Will, Determinism and Responsibility

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### **PHILOSOPHY MINOR**

For a minor in philosophy, a student must complete six philosophy courses (18 credits). Interested students should contact the chairperson in order to discuss an individual program relevant to their academic majors.

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### **DOUBLE MAJORS**

Philosophy is an excellent double major in that it enriches the questions and theoretical orientation of any other discipline. Interested students, particularly those majoring in education, should contact the chairperson in order to discuss an individual program.

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### **PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENTAL HONORS PROGRAM**

The Philosophy Departmental Honors Program encourages students to excel in philosophy, to provide models and guidance for pursuing excellence, and to honor those students who demonstrate excellence. To be accepted into the departmental honors program, a student must be a philosophy major and fulfill the following criteria at the time of application to the philosophy honors program<sup>1</sup>:

- A 3.3 GPA for all philosophy courses to be used toward a Bridgewater State College degree with a minimum of three philosophy courses completed.<sup>2</sup>
- A 3.3 GPA for all completed course work to be used for a Bridgewater State College degree.
- At least 60 credits completed toward an undergraduate degree.

For additional information concerning the departmental honors program in Philosophy, please contact the department chairperson.

The philosophy department has a chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the international honors society for philosophy. Membership is open, regardless of major, to sophomores and higher with a 3.0 average in two or more philosophy classes and a 3.2 cumulative GPA. Members receive a certificate and are eligible to wear a sash indicating membership as part of their graduation regalia.

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## **GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

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The department does not currently offer a graduate program. However, philosophy courses at the 400 level, with the exception of PHIL 499, may be taken for graduate credit with the consent of the Department of Philosophy.

- <sup>1</sup> Upon admission to the departmental honors program, a student's philosophy major advisor will assume responsibility for advising the student in respect to the honors program.
- <sup>2</sup> Students entering the Honors Program at or near the minimum GPA for admission should be aware that achieving higher grades in future philosophy courses will be necessary in order to eventually reach the 3.5 GPA in philosophy required for completing the Honors Program.