About the Program

As a philosophy major at Slippery Rock University, you will study questions such as: What can I know? What is good? What is the relation between individuals and society? What is ethical conduct in medicine and business? You will learn to examine critically what passes as common knowledge, to formulate logical positions on important issues and to express your ideas intelligently. To meet the needs and interests of students, the SRU department of philosophy offers a bachelor of arts in philosophy, an applied philosophy major, a career-related major, a minor in philosophy and a minor in ethics. Faculty work closely with students to help them choose courses that are most appropriate for their programs.

Philosophy Major (BA)

The philosophy major is a 33-credit major that provides a solid foundation in the liberal arts. The BA degree prepares students for a variety of career paths, including law school, graduate school in philosophy and graduate school in other disciplines.

Applied Philosophy Major (BA)

The applied philosophy major is a 36-credit major. It requires 24 credits of philosophy courses and 12 credits of courses in non-profit leadership. Students who complete this degree are well-prepared to pursue careers working with non-profit organizations.

Career-Related Major

The career-related major is a 30-credit second major that allows students to design a philosophy degree to complement their preparations for a specific career. This major requires 24 credits in philosophy, with the remaining six credits in either philosophy or the student’s primary major.

Career Opportunities

Do you want to go to law school? Philosophy majors have the highest score on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), and they have the highest acceptance rate to law school of any other major. Want to get an MBA? Philosophy majors are the third highest scoring group on the Graduate Management Admissions Test. On the Graduate Record Examination, philosophy students have the highest score on the verbal and analytical writing section and have the highest score among humanities majors on the quantitative section. (Source: Educational Testing Service, 2013) Philosophy majors earn more at midcareer than any other humanities major (Source: Payscale.com, 2014). Slippery Rock University philosophy majors have gone on to law school and graduate school.

Outstanding Faculty

The first priority of Slippery Rock University philosophy faculty is teaching. SRU philosophy faculty have received local, national and international recognition for both teaching and scholarship. Faculty members have written favorably reviewed books and articles, received awards, presented papers at international, national and regional conferences and served on review boards for publishers and on local organizations. As a philosophy student at SRU, you will be taught by dedicated teachers as well as practicing scholars.

Majors/Concentrations

- Philosophy (BA)
- Applied
- Career-Related (2nd major only)

Minors

- Ethics
- Philosophy
Study Abroad and Other Activities

Study Abroad Opportunities
Philosophy students at SRU have gone on course-related, faculty-led trips to Greece and Cuba to enhance their study of philosophy of law and justice, business ethics and Greek philosophy.

Phi Sigma Tau
The philosophy honorary Phi Sigma Tau welcomes not only majors who have achieved academic distinction, but other students who have taken several philosophy courses and excelled.

Philosophy Club
The SRU Philosophy Club sponsors films, trips to conferences and weekly discussions about philosophical topics. The club meets regularly giving students the opportunity to converse informally.

Student/Faculty Get-togethers
You will find a congenial and welcoming atmosphere in the philosophy department. Twice a year, a faculty member hosts a party for majors and minors. During the December holidays, the department hosts an informal party on campus.

CAPE
The Center for Applied and Professional Ethics is housed in the SRU philosophy department. The center treats the central ethical issues of our lives by sponsoring events and speakers.

Student Achievement
The SRU department of philosophy fosters excellence in our students. In recent years, program graduates have been accepted to law school at Duquesne, Pitt, Southern Illinois and the University of Richmond. Others have gone on to graduate programs in philosophy and other disciplines at Purdue, West Chester, Southern Illinois, Duquesne, Penn State, Kent State and Case Western Reserve. Over the past several years, Slippery Rock University philosophy students have won more undergraduate statewide prizes than students at any other Pennsylvania state university. They have also had their work accepted for presentation at national and regional conferences.