ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What is thinking? What is knowledge, and do we have any? Is free will possible? Is time real, or is it an illusion? What does it mean to be infinite? Which moral rules are the right ones? Philosophy at Brandeis doesn’t teach you what to think but how to think and how to analyze complex problems, raise questions and come up with imaginative solutions. The skills it develops — communication and critical thinking skills, as well as the capacity to empathize with others — are essential, not only to becoming good citizens of the world but also to the pursuit of almost any career.

What makes the program distinctive?

The Brandeis philosophy program is among the top-ranked undergraduate programs in the country. Our faculty members are highly regarded within their fields, and students regularly interact closely with their professors. Philosophy majors have gone on to law school, medical school and business school and into international diplomacy and the high-tech industry. Recent graduates have successfully pursued careers in filmmaking, working for the FBI and doing further graduate study in philosophy.

FAST FACTS

- Current number of majors and minors: 46
- Number of faculty: 10
- Can you minor in this program? Yes
- Emphasis within the major: epistemology, ethics, history of philosophy, logic, metaphysics, philosophy of mind and language, political philosophy
- Popular second majors: economics, English, neuroscience, politics, psychology
- Website: brandeis.edu/departments/philosophy
ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Colloquium Series
The department invites renowned philosophers from other universities to present their work, providing students with an opportunity to keep up with the most recent debates within the field.

Crossing disciplinary boundaries

Building an academic community
Our department also features a top-ranked master’s program. The interaction between undergraduate and graduate students contributes to the department’s sense of community. It also creates opportunities for high-level discussions both in and outside the classroom through panel discussions, colloquia and informal conversations in the hallway.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Senior thesis
Philosophy majors may pursue honors by writing an essay or thesis in their senior year. Departmental honors are awarded on the basis of excellence in all courses applied to the major as well as the essay or thesis.

Philosophy prize
At the end of every academic year, the department awards a philosophy prize to one or more students who have contributed the most to philosophy among those who have completed the major.

Faculty awards

Faculty’s most recent publications


AFTER BRANDEIS

Diverse career paths
One recent philosophy graduate was chosen from among hundreds of applicants to study health policy as a Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholar; others were recently accepted into Harvard Medical School, Harvard Law School and New York University Law School. One student is in China starting a business, and another is clerking for federal Judge Sidney Stein at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

“Philosophy begins in wonder.”
Descartes, “The Discourse on Method,” 1637