

PROGRAM FACULTY

Christopher Franklin, Ph.D.
Professor of Philosophy

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“As a philosophy student, thinking on a deeper level about the world and life in general is just what we do. But more generally, due to the integrated Christian perspective Grove City College academics are regularly challenging students to approach their world and area of study differently.

– *Elijah Coryell '16*



Grove City College is a highly ranked, nationally recognized private liberal arts and sciences college that equips students to pursue their unique callings through an academically excellent and Christ-centered learning and living experience distinguished by a commitment to affordability and promotion of the Christian worldview, the foundations of a free society and the love of neighbor. Established in 1876, the College is a pioneer in independent private education and accepts no federal funds. It offers students degrees in 60 majors on a picturesque 180-acre campus north of Pittsburgh, Pa. Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Grove City College is routinely ranked as one of the country's top colleges by U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review and others based on academic quality and superior outcomes.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Philosophy is the longing pursuit of wisdom. It is born of wonder, animated by hope, and pursued with humility. The philosophy major at GCC is rooted in the abiding conviction that Jesus Christ is the master Sage, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3), and that our fundamental vocation is to follow Him in becoming excellent human beings—persons characterized by love and justice, faith and prudence, courage and temperance, and hope. Our curriculum aims to educate students in whole-souled wisdom, a state of character marked by both intellectual clarity and well-ordered loves. Those with intellectual clarity have a deep and subtle grasp of God’s world, coupled with a range of analytical capacities: the ability to recognize connections and implications; the ability to define, distinguish, and argue an issue; and the ability to recognize and articulate central but implicit assumptions that drive a thinker or culture. Those with well-ordered loves have a discerning appetite for the good, the true, and the beautiful, a heartfelt sensitivity to what genuinely matters in human life. By fostering whole-souled wisdom in students we aim to help them flourish, both personally and professionally, while avoiding the modern vice of what Josef Pieper calls “the world of total work”—a worldview that exalts paid activities to the sole or primary source of human happiness.

To this end, our curriculum has three pillars. First, we nurture our students on the greatest thinkers and texts from both inside and outside of the Christian wisdom tradition. We contend that growth in wisdom requires a disciplined receiving of the best of what has gone before. So our students read, among others, Plato, Aristotle, Lucretius, Seneca, Augustine, Aquinas, Dante, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Nietzsche, and Kierkegaard. Second, we train students in the arts of reading, writing, and conversing. Students learn how to interpret and analyze works, how to discern and defend a viewpoint, and how to express their discoveries through the written and spoken word. Third, we build a community of scholars who eat, laugh, and argue with each other for the glory of God and the common good.

MAJOR

Philosophy

The Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy requires 33 credit hours of coursework in addition to the College’s core curriculum. Students examine the essential thinkers, texts and ideas from ancient Greece to the 21st century.

MINOR

Philosophy

The Minor in Philosophy is composed of 18 credit hours. In addition to two course requirements (PHIL 161 or 191, and PHIL 201 or 211) you may choose from any of the College’s philosophy courses with a maximum of three credits of independent study.

SPECIAL PROGRAM AREAS OF INTEREST

The program supports both a philosophy club and Phi Sigma Tau, the national philosophy honorary.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The philosophy program at Grove City College offers students in their junior and senior years the opportunity to conduct meaningful research under the supervision of experienced and well-published faculty. Additionally, any student who has completed at least 12 credit hours of philosophy coursework may complete, for credit, an intensive independent study of a specialized topic.

CAREER AND GRADUATION OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates have gone on to do graduate work in philosophy at institutions such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Notre Dame, Arizona State, Boston University, University of Leuven and the University of Massachusetts. The program’s graduates also go on to excellent graduate schools, law schools, medical schools and professional schools in disciplines other than philosophy. Recent graduates are thriving in a variety of fields including business, journalism, law, policy, ministry and teaching.

AFFILIATED MINORS

Classical Studies

Students must take 21 credit hours from a combination of English, Greek, history, philosophy, political science and Latin classes.

Classical Christian Education

Students take 23 required hours from a combination of history, philosophy, political science, religion and language art classes.

Medieval Studies

Students take 21 required hours, including literature, history, philosophy, religion and language art classes.

CONTACT



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