Philosophy
Honours, Major and Minor Programs

Examples of philosophy courses at VIU

- PHIL 100 | Rhetoric and Reasoning
- PHIL 111 | Knowledge and Reality
- PHIL 211 | Existentialism
- PHIL 221 | Philosophy of Religion
- PHIL 230 | Contemporary Social Issues
- PHIL 231 | Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 233 | Environmental Ethics
- PHIL 234 | Business and Professional Ethics
- PHIL 235 | Philosophy and Personal Relations
- PHIL 240 | Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL 251 | Formal Logic
- PHIL 252 | Understanding Scientific Reasoning
- PHIL 312 | Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 361 | Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL 443 | Moral Theory

For more information on these and other philosophy courses, visit **viu.ca/philosophy**

Applications

To apply, go to **viu.ca/apply** or visit one of our VIU campuses in Nanaimo, Duncan, Parksville, or Powell River.

Vancouver Island University

VIU is a comprehensive post-secondary institution located on scenic Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia. The main campus is in Nanaimo, with regional campuses in Duncan, Parksville, and Powell River. More than 14,000 full and part-time students are enrolled in programs leading to certificates, diplomas and degrees.

The philosophy program is offered through the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.
For more information, visit the website **(viu.ca/philosophy)** or e-mail the chair **(philosophy@viu.ca).**

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Email: info@viu.ca (general inquiries)
        worldviu@viu.ca (international inquiries)

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VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Faculty of
Social Sciences

Philosophy is reflection on fundamental questions, such as: What is morality?   Do we really have free will?

Can we know anything with certainty?   What distinguishes good reasons from bad ones?

What is the relation between mind and body?   What are the sources of our knowledge?   What is truth?

Is it wrong to eat non-human animals?

What is philosophy?

Philosophy is all about reasoning. It's about analyzing core issues and concepts, even basic assumptions, defending a position with arguments. The main sub-areas of philosophy are ethical theory and applied ethics, logic, epistemology (theory of knowledge), and metaphysics (nature of being and reality).

Why study philosophy?

Philosophy fosters skills in analysis, problem-solving, innovative thinking, and clear writing. Not surprisingly, philosophy majors have consistently ranked well on graduate entrance exams (LSAT, GMAT, and GRE). They develop skills transferable to many fields such as law, business, politics, program development, and mediation and arbitration. These skills are also useful in everyday life for making careful, reflective decisions on matters of importance.

Why attend VIU?

The philosophy faculty are friendly and dedicated to teaching and student-learning. Class sizes are small, facilitating student engagement and discussion in a supportive environment. A new honours program offers more in-depth study in philosophy. A new internship program helps students navigate the labour market and gain work experience in a professional setting. The main campus is in Nanaimo, BC — an inviting and affordable place to live.

What do students have to say?

"I always reflect on how valuable the critical tools of my philosophical education have been to the entirety of my life — on a personal, academic, and career level."

"It was the smart, involved faculty who attracted me to the philosophy program."

"Philosophy was definitely my preferred area of study. I enjoyed the independent thinking it encouraged."

"I always felt the instructors were fair, inclusive, and friendly, which improved my learning experience and made me feel comfortable in class and glad to study."

"My brain expanded until my head hurt trying to grasp beautiful, complex concepts."

"I truly recommend this program to anybody interested; it has made me a better man through the friendships and experiences I have had while attending VIU."

Philosophy provides the thinking tools so universally applicable to the puzzles that confront us as human beings.