

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts | Bachelor of Science

A philosophy and religious studies degree for understanding the human and social condition

The philosophy major will offer you an understanding of the nature of philosophy and particular philosophical problems that arise in our lives and our societies. The religious studies major will introduce you to a variety of religious traditions and give you the analytical tools necessary to explore religious theology and praxis. Both majors use the Experiential Liberal Arts educational model to provide you with skills in critical thinking, writing, and ethical reasoning, along with the opportunities to hone those skills through co-op, study abroad, service-learning, and rigorous research. The coursework and experiential learning opportunities will profoundly affect your thinking about the world and will be valuable in everyday social, personal, and professional life.

Contemporary learning through reflection

Research Opportunities

Applied ethics and contemporary religions are our signature focus. The faculty provides clarity to contemporary social and moral issues in the classroom, in the public arena, and in their cutting-edge research. The Ethics Institute at Northeastern conducts original research in areas of applied ethics, religious ethics, ethical theory, social and political philosophy, and formal methods in ethics and epistemology.

Co-op Experience

Co-op placements in a wide variety of nonprofits, government agencies, and companies will allow you to integrate what is studied in the classroom with what is experienced in the everyday workplace.

Previous co-op placements include:

- Ropes and Gray law firm
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
- International Institute of Counter Terrorism
- U.S. Holocaust Museum
- OneVoice Movement
- Health Law Advocates
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General
- Barbara Lee Family Foundation
- Boston After School and Beyond
- OXFAM America
- United States Probation Office in the Southern District of New York
- Library of Congress Kluge Center

Resources In and Out of the Classroom

The philosophy and religion department offers many resources to students to support and further refine the skills learned in the classroom. The Philosophy Club provides a venue for students to think, read and talk about “the big questions” outside of the classroom. The Department’s chapter of Minorities and Philosophy promotes inclusivity and diversity in the field and study of philosophy. The Ethics Bowl is a collegiate debate competition that takes on ethically complex and controversial cases while travel and competing with colleges across the country. The Ethics Institute supports faculty-student working groups on topics such as AI and Date Ethics, Philosophy as a Way of Life, and Science and Philosophy.



Featured Courses

- Introduction to Logic
- Comparative Ethics
- Ancient Philosophy and Political Thought
- Introduction to World Religion
- Encountering Islam
- Cults and Sects
- Apocalypticism in Film
- Global Justice
- Technology and Human Values
- Ethics and Evolutionary Games
- Environmental Ethics

Learn about Philosophy or Religion combined major degrees at cssh.northeastern.edu/combined-majors



The practical skills and sets of values that the philosophy department has given me have completely transformed my outlook on current issues and on problems I want to tackle after I graduate.”

Myraeka “Mac” d’Leeuwen, ’22
philosophy and computer science
combined major



Kaleem *Ahmid* '20

Philosophy and Health Science



Kaleem participated in faculty-led evaluation of 826 through the Dukakis Center, and had a co-op as a clinical assistant at Hebrew Senior Life and as an ethics researcher at Boston Children's Hospital's IPEP.



He was captain for the NU Ethics Bowl team for 3 years at local and national levels, as well as founding "Effective Altruism @NU."



Kaleem earned a Masters of Public Health in 2021 while working as a researcher for Effective Ventures Foundation USA. He ultimately wants to work for intervention evaluator in the global health and development field.

cssh.northeastern.edu/student/kaleem-ahmid

N Northeastern University College of Social Sciences and Humanities

As a leader in the Experiential Liberal Arts, Northeastern's College of Social Sciences and Humanities combines experiential learning with the rigorous study of culture, society, policy, and ethics. To explore the past and shape policies for a better tomorrow, we practice humanics: the integration of traditional liberal arts capacities with quantitative tools and new digital proficiencies. In fields ranging from English and economics to philosophy, criminology and public policy, we focus on the key issues of today: how to shape public spheres, how to build resilient and sustainable communities, and how to engage with cultures past and present.

N Northeastern University

Founded in 1898, Northeastern is a global research university and the recognized leader in experience-powered lifelong learning. Our world-renowned experiential approach empowers our students, faculty, alumni, and partners to create impact far beyond the confines of discipline, degree, and campus.

Our locations—in Boston; the Massachusetts communities of Burlington and Nahant; Charlotte, North Carolina; the San Francisco Bay Area; Seattle; London; Toronto; and Vancouver—are nodes in our growing global university system. Through this network, we expand opportunities for flexible, student-centered learning and collaborative, solutions-focused research.

Northeastern's comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate programs—in on-campus, online, and hybrid formats—lead to degrees through the doctorate in nine colleges and schools. Among these, we offer more than 140 multidisciplinary majors and degrees designed to prepare students for purposeful lives and careers.