



## GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

### PHILOSOPHY/APPLIED ETHICS

#### PROGRAM OF STUDY

Almost 2,500 years ago, Plato grounded Western philosophy in the study of “the good, the true, and the beautiful.” While ethics, epistemology, and aesthetics have remained fundamental to the field for millennia, philosophy today encompasses subjects that the ancient Greeks would have never anticipated.

Thus, while the department’s programs are firmly grounded in philosophy’s past, offering courses in the traditional disciplines, there is an equally strong commitment to studies vital to the present day, including bioethics and business ethics, 20th century continental philosophy, and numerous topics of contemporary concern.

The Department of Philosophy has offered the master’s degree for more than 40 years. Taught by well-qualified professors who give personal attention, it provides a solid basis for doctoral studies, or for careers in industry, government, and college teaching.

#### THE CURRICULUM

The M.A. in philosophy and M.A. philosophy-applied ethics require a minimum of 30 credits. All candidates are required to take PHI 501 Proseminar, PHI 525 Epistemology, PHI 599 Philosophical Concepts and Systems, and PHI 640 Seminar (focused on an important philosopher). Beyond these requirements, the student has the choice of either the standard or applied ethics track and, with department approval, either the thesis or nonthesis program.

The standard track leading to the master of arts in philosophy allows students to deepen their knowledge of the history of philosophy, major philosophers, and major philosophical disciplines such as

metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and aesthetics. The applied ethics track leading to the master of arts in philosophy –applied ethics offers training in the theoretical justification and practical application of moral reasoning. Students pursuing this degree may choose to concentrate their courses in business ethics, health care ethics, or a combination of both.

#### GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

The recently redesigned graduate certificates in health care ethics and in business ethics offer an introduction to applied ethics without requiring previous exposure to course work in philosophy. Two required courses – PHI 502 History of Western Ethics, restricted to those with minimal preparation in philosophy and offering an intense but elementary overview of the history of moral philosophy, and either PHI 570 Bioethics or PHI 580 Business Ethics – are accompanied by carefully chosen “focused electives,” to be selected under advisement depending on one’s interests and goals.

#### CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS ETHICS

This 15-credit certificate is designed for business professionals who wish to increase their knowledge about business ethics. The certificate, which can be completed in three semesters, consists of two required philosophy courses (PHI 502 History of Western Ethics, PHI 580 Business Ethics) and three elective courses (such as WOS 530 Women in Leadership and MGT 511 Managing and Leading Organizations) selected with advisement. A complete listing of electives is available online at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/sch\\_cas.phi/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas.phi/).

#### CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH CARE ETHICS

This 15-credit certificate is designed for health care professionals who wish to increase their knowledge about health care ethics. The certificate, which can be completed in three semesters, consists of two required philosophy courses (PHI 502 History of Western Ethics, PHI 570 Bioethics) and three elective courses (such as HEA 512 HIV/AIDS and NSG 521 Palliative Care) selected with advisement. A complete listing of electives is available online at [www.wcupa.edu](http://www.wcupa.edu).

#### FACILITIES

The Francis Harvey Green Library provides an excellent environment for study and research. It is furnished with a variety of seating areas, including individual study carrels, faculty and graduate lounges, group studies, seminar rooms, and general reading areas. The library has a growing collection of more than one-half million volumes and subscriptions to 2,200 journals.

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including goals statement (apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad))
- Official academic transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, reflecting a bachelor’s degree and a minimum of 12 semester hours of undergraduate philosophy, including courses in history of ancient philosophy, history of modern philosophy, ethics, and logic
- Those seeking admission to the certificate

programs must send transcripts reflecting a bachelor's degree but do **not** need prior courses in philosophy

- Two letters of recommendation
- Writing sample or GRE score

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education  
McKelvie Hall  
102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcugrad)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Dr. Matthew Pierlott, Graduate Coordinator  
Department of Philosophy  
131 Main Hall  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2429

E-mail: [mpierlott@wcupa.edu](mailto:mpierlott@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/sch\\_cas.phi](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas.phi)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official\\_documents/graduate.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official_documents/graduate.catalog/).

## ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

