Philosophy is one of the core disciplines of a liberal arts education. The origins of philosophy date back to the time of ancient Greek philosophy, which began around the sixth century B.C., as well as ancient Chinese philosophy, which began about the same time. Ancient Indian philosophy, which was the earliest system of philosophy in the world (Sankhya), appeared around the seventh century B.C. Philosophy is the foundation of all knowledge, and today, more than half of the member colleges of the national Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges offer philosophy majors.

The Philosophy major at Eastern is focused on Comparative Philosophy, i.e., western and non-western and their comparison. With this global scope, students learn about the different philosophical traditions in the world and how to compare them on the basis of their fundamental values and beliefs. This will enable the students to better understand and interact with people from different traditions, but also to better understand their own world perspectives.

One of the major functions of philosophy is the development of the tools of reasoning so that one can think critically and creatively. The rigor of the reasoning process enables a person to solve problems and make wise, sound and moral decisions. Critical thinking and complex reasoning is not only a course required for all Philosophy majors, but is the foundation of all of the courses taught in the major.

Philosophy degrees prepare graduates to succeed across the occupational spectrum. For instance, philosophy majors have the highest acceptance rate of all disciplines for entry into law school, at 85 percent.
The Philosophy curriculum includes western philosophies and non-western philosophies. The non-western philosophies include those of East Asia and South Asia; African Philosophy will be added soon, and in time, the philosophies of Native Americans and the First People of Canada will also be added to the curriculum.

Even though some non-western philosophies have not separated religion from philosophy, comparative philosophy scholars have long approached these traditions with a philosophical perspective.

In the Philosophy major, students study metaphysics, epistemology, critical thinking and complex reasoning, formal logic, ethics, aesthetics, modern social and political thought, existentialism and phenomenology, as well as courses in the history of western and non-western philosophies. A number of applied courses such as bioethics and the philosophy of science are going to be offered as courses in human rights, (natural and civil) and peace and human rights are regularly offered. A course in animal rights will also be added eventually.

**CONTACTS**

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