The program in applied philosophy and ethics at Texas State University combines theoretical perspectives and methods of philosophy relevant to practical issues within a broad range of fields.

The demand for critical thinking skills and an understanding of ethical issues continues to grow in medicine, business and the professions, science and technology, social services, government, the legal system, and education.

Graduates of the program will have acquired skills of normative analysis, argumentation and effective dialogue that will allow them to identify and suggest solutions to ethical, social and political problems. Each student in the program also will develop a competence in an additional field of interest, tailoring studies to particular career goals or careers.
Unique Study
At the heart of the program is a course on dialogue, which is essential to any practical application of philosophy. In addition to studying the theory and principles of productive philosophical dialogue, students lead and participate in discussions as part of the Department of Philosophy’s Dialogue Series.

The series includes student and faculty presenters from all eight colleges on campus, as well as speakers from off campus. The course prepares students to discuss philosophical issues with people from many backgrounds and helps students use their training in analysis, argument and dialogue in diverse settings.

In addition, students tailor the curriculum to their career goals through a focused set of courses in a discipline other than philosophy, like counseling, criminal justice, geography, legal studies, political science and technology.

The program offers a thesis track, designed especially for students who plan to pursue doctoral studies after receiving the master’s in applied philosophy and ethics. Students who choose the thesis track will write a thesis under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty in the Philosophy Department.

Course Work
Students on the thesis track must complete 30 hours of course work, and those on the non-thesis track must complete 33 hours. Students also can enroll concurrently in a six-hour program that will lead to a graduate certificate in professional ethics.

Each course in the program contributes to the development of skills of argumentation, analysis, dialogue and theoretical knowledge in real-life situations. For example, Professional Ethics addresses the ethics of whistle-blowing and the complexities of client-provider confidentiality. Philosophy of Education critically examines the theoretical frameworks that underlie teaching methodologies and institutions.

Two courses are required for all students in the program:
- Applied Philosophy: the practical application of methods and teachings of philosophy to areas of human experience including religion, science, morality, politics, art and literature.
- Dialogue: the study of literature about the nature, purpose and significance of dialogue along with active participation in the Department of Philosophy’s Dialogue Series.

Other graduate philosophy courses:
- Philosophy of Technology
- Professional Ethics
- Environmental Ethics
- Meaning of Life
- Philosophy of Education
- Problems in Philosophy
- Philosophy of Sex and Love
- Philosophy and Sport
- Medical Ethics and Bioethics
- Philosophical Theory of Science
- Internship in Applied Philosophy

Students in the master’s program also must select a specific group of classes oriented toward their career goals in a discipline other than philosophy.

Facilities
The Philosophy Department has a spacious area for dialogue, well-appointed with seminar-style furniture conducive to discussions.

Faculty
The program draws on the strength of the department’s faculty members, many of whom are trained in theoretical and applied ethics, social philosophy and the humanities. They are committed to forging cross-disciplinary ties to political science, aquatic resources, technology and other fields of study.

Admission Policy
All applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university. A minimum of a 3.0 GPA on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours of letter-grade work earned before receipt of their bachelor’s (plus any previously completed graduate or professional work) is required.

Submit the following to the Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- an official transcript from each senior-level, post-secondary institution attended
- one-page statement of purpose

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to submit application materials and additional details. Applicants who wish to be considered for scholarships and graduate assistantships should have all application materials in by March 1. Overall application deadlines are June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester and April 15 for the summer semester.

Financial Assistance
The Department of Philosophy awards eight instructional assistantships each year. For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

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