

**Philosophy Department  
Rosemont College**

**GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The program in Philosophy seeks to enable students to gain an appreciation for some of the most fundamental questions of human existence, to develop the ability to read closely, analyze carefully, reason critically, and think creatively, and to explore the foundations of their own beliefs and values. Students in the philosophy program will (1) gain an understanding of central questions concerning the nature of knowledge, reality, and value; (2) develop habits of critical and creative thinking in exploring these questions; (3) develop skill in the written expression of their ideas consistent with the standards of philosophical research; and (4) develop habits of reasoned moral decision making.

The goals of the Philosophy program cohere very closely with the College's mission of developing open and critical minds and the ability to make reasoned moral decisions.

The learning outcomes that follow each stated goal and objective are the observable and measurable skills that students in philosophy are expected to have acquired and demonstrated by the end of their major course of study.

**Goal 1: Students will possess the ability to articulate various approaches to questions concerning the nature of knowledge, reality, and value.**

**Objective 1.1:** Students will be able to identify and critically assess some of the major thinkers, concepts, and issues in Western or non-Western philosophical traditions.

**Outcome 1.1:** On examinations and assignments, all philosophy majors will meet or exceed the benchmark for the relevant category on a standardized rubric or alternative measure.

**Courses that support this outcome:** All departmental offerings except PHI 0120 and 0230.

**Objective 1.2:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between philosophy and the Catholic traditions that underlie the mission of Rosemont College.

**Outcome 1.2:** On examinations and assignments, all philosophy majors will meet or exceed the benchmark for the relevant category on a standardized rubric or alternative measure.

**Courses that support this outcome:** PHI 0200, 0201, 0265, 0360

**Goal 2: Philosophy students will possess skill in critical thinking and argument analysis.**

**Objective 2:** Students will demonstrate facility with formal and informal reasoning methods.

**Outcome 2:** In either Critical Thinking or Introduction to Logic, all philosophy majors will earn at least a grade of 'B' (signifying 83% or better out of the total number of possible points).

**Courses that support this outcome:** PHI 0120, 0230

**Goal 3: Philosophy students will be able to produce written work consistent with philosophical methods of inquiry and research.**

**Objective 3:** Students will demonstrate ability in the use of reasoned argument to develop and support their own views on philosophical issues in a clear, precise, and systematic manner.

**Outcome 3:** On critical essays or research papers, all philosophy students will meet or exceed the benchmark for each category on a standardized rubric.

**Courses that support this outcome:** All departmental offerings except PHI 0120 and 0230.

**Goal 4: Philosophy students will be capable of making reasoned moral decisions.**

**Objective 4:** Students will demonstrate proficiency in the analysis and evaluation of ethical concepts and theories, and in their application to a variety of social and moral contexts.

**Outcome 4:** In any of the ethics courses, all philosophy majors will meet or exceed the benchmark for each category on a standardized rubric.

**Courses that support this outcome:** PHI 0270, 0271, 0274, 0275, 0290, 0360.