



South Carolina

College of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D. and Master's in Philosophy



Pursue advanced study in a variety of philosophical subdisciplines, including ethics, language and linguistics, religion, history and philosophy of science.

Engage in interdisciplinary research with the social sciences, gender studies, medicine, literature, linguistics, religion, and physics.

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Ph.D. and Master's	Career Opportunities	Research Connections	Columbia and Campus	Department Life	Ask Questions and Apply

Career Opportunities

A philosophy degree can lead you to many career paths.

72 percent of our PhD students have accepted long-term academic jobs or post-doctoral fellowships. Other graduates have gone on to work as:

- Consultants
- Administrators
- Writers
- Teachers
- Engineers
- Ministers
- Artificial intelligence researchers
- and even a wargame research analyst for the army.

\$8.5 million

Our faculty have garnered more than \$8.5 million in research awards.

Our students continue to win prestigious academic awards and fellowships:

- Fulbright
- DAAD
- Bilinski
- Presidential Fellowships
- NSF

“ I loved my time in the USC philosophy department, which was an incredibly supportive environment. While my expertise was in philosophy of science, I was also able to study ethics, action theory, and the history of philosophy with a collegial group of faculty and fellow students. ”

— Brandon Boesch, Assistant Professor,
Morningside University



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Research Connections

Conduct interdisciplinary research with partners across campus.

Some institutes that our faculty are involved with include:

Ann Johnson Institute for Science, Technology and Society

The Ann Johnson Institute builds diverse communities for the study of technology, medicine, and science.

[Visit the institute website »](#)

Center for Bioethics

A locus for interdisciplinary research, education, and service in bioethics and the medical humanities, addressing these areas at local, regional, and national levels.

Humanities Collaborative

The collaborative advances interdisciplinary humanistic inquiry through collaborations among faculty, students, and members of the public.

[Visit the collaborative website »](#)



Our faculty also bring their expertise to more public facing projects, including:

- Daily Nous, a blog devoted to the profession of Philosophy
- Sacred and Profane Love, a podcast about philosophy and literature
- The Rudy C. Barnes Symposia on Law and Morality.

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Columbia and Our Campus

A thriving university in a growing capital city

Columbia, South Carolina is a charming, thriving, affordable and safe capital city that offers outdoor adventures, sports, entertainment, and a robust arts scene — many of the benefits of a big city, but without the typical costs.



At its center is the University of South Carolina, a Research 1 university whose faculty garnered an average of \$240 million in sponsored awards over the past five years. It is a member of the Southeastern Conference, and its beautiful, historic campus lies in the heart of the city.



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Department Life

The collegial and diverse life of the philosophy department goes well beyond the seminar room.

We host department colloquia, where philosophers from around the globe present their work and engage in lively discussion.

We host the Queen Street Symposium, where local philosophers present their work more informally, followed by general discussion and good cheer.

Our faculty host workshops, conferences, and lectures on a wide variety of topics.



“ At USC I found a community genuinely interested not only in the pursuit of truth but in pursuing truth together—friends with whom I could trade papers, get constructive feedback, and work through the challenges of life as a graduate student. I now know that such community is the exception rather than the norm, and I am deeply grateful for it. ”

— Michelle Panchuk, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Murray State University



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Apply Now

In summary, South Carolina is a place where you can take your skills to the next level, launch your career and enjoy life while you're at it.

“ USC philosophy was a perfect fit for me and I look back on my time there with a deep sense of gratitude. The department’s experienced faculty helped me to think beyond my narrow interests and engage topics in their full complexity. The teaching experience I gained was invaluable. For anyone looking to enter biomedical ethics, whether it be clinical ethics, research ethics, or the medical humanities, USC should be on the list of programs to consider. ”

— Adam Omelianchuk, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine



Full consideration will be given to applications received by January 15.



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