Program of Study
The Philosophy, Pre-Law option is designed for students intending to go to law school. Students taking this option sharpen their ability to reason, learn to respond capably to opposing arguments, and develop skills at expressing their views clearly and precisely both orally and in writing. These are exactly the skills that lead to success in law school. Many of the courses use the Socratic method and are concerned with ethics, justice, principles of sound reasoning, and legal history and practice. Reasoning by cases, hypothetical situations, and philosophical problem-solving skills are fostered in all courses.

Faculty
All Philosophy faculty members have a Ph.D. in Philosophy. Students taking courses at any level, introductory or advanced, can be assured they are taught by faculty with excellent graduate training and earned doctorates who have a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and are engaged scholars in their field.

Scholarships
The Mary Olive Woods (MOW) Trust provides funding for student scholarships up to $6,000 for majors. The department annually awards around $20,000 in scholarships to deserving undergraduates. A departmental scholarship is also available to an outstanding Philosophy major who is a graduating senior. For more information about scholarships, please see wiu.edu/philosophy or wiu.edu/Scholarship.

Honors in the Philosophy, Pre-Law Option
The Philosophy, Pre-Law option was created so that one may major in Philosophy with this option and also have a Pre-Law Honors minor. To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. Students completing the Philosophy, Pre-Law major with honors have the opportunity to take general honors courses, Philosophy courses for honors credit, and the bachelor’s thesis in Philosophy. For the thesis project, students work under the supervision of a faculty member, selecting and researching a topic, writing and revising the thesis paper, and conducting an oral defense of it.

Admission to Law School
Studying philosophy is one of the best ways to prepare for law school because all Philosophy courses emphasize the development of the skills needed for success in studying the law. Over the past several decades, majors in Philosophy consistently have the highest average scores on the LSAT among the 25 most common majors for students taking the exam. Graduates from the WIU program have gone on to law school at Indiana University (Maurer School of Law), the University of Illinois, Chicago-Kent, and many other law schools.
Student Activities
The Student Philosophical Association (SPA) is a student organization for Philosophy and Philosophy, Pre-Law majors and other students interested in philosophy. SPA meets biweekly throughout the academic year. Meetings are organized around topics of interest to students and include presentations by students and faculty members, discussions of films, debates, and panel discussions.

Special Opportunities
The department’s strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and student learning is evidenced by keeping classes at a size small enough that students can participate actively in class discussions and faculty can get to know students on an individual basis. Faculty members are accessible to students beyond the classroom during office hours, SPA meetings, and other informal settings. Highly personalized advising and career counseling services are provided by the department to allow students to make the most of their education at Western.

The Mary Olive Woods Trust provides funding for an annual lecture series in which a nationally renowned scholar is brought in for a two-day visit, which includes a lecture and more informal meetings with students and faculty. The department also brings in other distinguished speakers through its Outside Speakers Series.

Graduate in Four Years or Less
The major in Philosophy with the Pre-Law option participates in Western’s GradTrac program so that students can finish their undergraduate degree in a timely manner—four years or less. Students are encouraged to complete their General Education requirements, including communication skills courses, during their freshman and sophomore years. They are expected to take introductory Philosophy courses, in particular, Logic and Reasoning, during that time as well. The required History of Philosophy courses (Ancient and Modern) and the Philosophical Writing course should be taken in the junior year. In the junior and senior years, students will take other upper-level Philosophy courses and directed elective courses helpful for preparation for law school offered by other departments such as Political Science, Economics, or History. An early choice of a suitable minor, preferably by the end of the sophomore year, is strongly advised.

For More Information
See wiu.edu/cas/philosophy_and_religious_studies/prelaw or go to wiu.edu/philosophy and follow the "Philosophy, Pre-Law" link. The department office is in Morgan Hall 456, and visitors are welcome to stop by. To arrange an appointment to meet with the department chair to discuss programs, e-mail prs@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1057.

University Libraries
University Libraries consists of the Leslie F. Malpass Library, which is the main branch, and four other branches: the Physical Sciences Library, the Music Library, the Curriculum Library, and the Quad Cities Library. We offer students access to a variety of resources in print and online. Research assistance is available in person at the Reference Desk and via instant messaging. Check out our website for hours, events, and services available: wiu.edu/libraries.

Campus Visits
The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and individual appointments can be made on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Appointments with advisers, faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged separately during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. You may schedule your visit or tour online at wiu.edu/admissions by selecting “Visit Campus.” You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU (742-5948) or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

wiu.edu/philosophy

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