MINOR IN
PHILOSOPHY
OF SCIENCE

STRENGTHEN
your career prospects

DEEPEN
your understanding of science

DEVELOP
advanced analytical reasoning skills

REQUERIED COURSES
- PHIL 2441: Language, Logic, & Scientific Reasoning
- PHIL 2550: Investigating Nature
- PHIL 4350: Philosophy of Science

ELECTIVE COURSES
Two courses from the below list are required to complete the minor.
- PHIL 3022: Modern Philosophy
- PHIL 3032: Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy
- PHIL 3350: Metaphysics
- PHIL 3360: Epistemology
- PHIL 3440: Introduction to Symbolic Logic
- PHIL 4101: Pragmatism
- PHIL 4242: Bioethics
- PHIL 4300: Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL 4740: Empiricism
- PHIL 4920: Philosophy of Media and Technology
- PHIL 4812/4980: Special Topics in Philosophy

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**What is Philosophy of Science?**

**Philosophy of Science** concerns the logic of scientific inquiry, raising questions such as:

- What is the best way to use observational evidence to learn about the natural world?
- How can findings be justified as objectively credible reasons to accept a hypothesis or a theory?
- How can we spot biases and procedural errors — and then control for them to enhance the quality of investigation?
- What justifies classifying and grouping observational phenomenon when the world does not come prelabeled?
- To what degree is truth relevant to the logical grounds to accept a hypothesis?

**Enhance and build up your analytical reasoning skills.** Analytical reasoning skills, the abilities to evaluate evidence critically and problem-solve, are essential skills for career success and are the most sought skills by employers and graduate/professional schools. In surveys, employers report analytic reasoning skills are more important than even the specific background knowledge within a field.

**Never Forget** that scientific method is a creation of human beings — an ongoing project to devise the most logical and rational means to extract information about the natural world. It is that project that is the centerpiece of Philosophy of Science.

**Why Study Philosophy of Science?**

**It's fun!!** When do you ever get to talk and think about the nature of science, as a whole? Courses provide the opportunity to engage with other smart and interesting folks on campus. “Fun” is strangely a serious matter — because it is the key to avoiding burnout.

**Standout from the pack!!** Good grades and high entrance test scores are important for post-graduate studies. Lots of people have those, however. Pursuing the minor demonstrates a deep interest in science that will be noticed by admissions officers and reviewers.

**Career success** depends on your ability to bring smart ideas to the table to solve problems, whether it is a question concerning experimental design or how to treat a patient. A deep understanding of the logic of science only places you in a better position to develop the creative means to generate and evaluate empirical evidence in solving questions about the natural world.

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**And it really is fun**