People who are interested in pursuing careers in engineering may find philosophy classes truly rewarding, and there are good reasons why. There are many overlapping skills. Philosophy helps develop them in broader contexts:

- identifying problems, weaknesses, and strengths (of situations, arguments, or positions)
- thinking clearly and with organization
- discerning and evaluating evidence
- creative thinking; the ability to imagine alternative scenarios
- logic, induction, deduction
- inference to the best explanation
- articulating thoughts concisely, precisely and without ambiguity

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<tr>
<th>PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO ENGINEERS</th>
<th>Why I Should Major in Philosophy</th>
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<tr>
<td>What is technology and how does it relate to science?</td>
<td>Philosophy as an academic discipline simply tries to focus this methodology on very tough questions and problems: “What is the right thing to do?”, “How does science give us knowledge?”, “How does language work when it takes the form of a proof?”, “Do we have free will?”, “What is the relationship between the mind and the body?” In fact, in its attempts to solve these problems, it is not at all unlike engineering in its methods. What is unique about philosophy is its excitement about addressing problems for which there is very little in the way of empirical data, and for which it is not clear that an experiment could be devised to obtain empirical data.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How can we develop and use technology in a morally responsible manner?</td>
<td>Thus philosophy is very much at home in an environment that focuses on science and engineering. Philosophers are often interested in scientific discoveries and technological solutions. Scientists and engineers trained in philosophy can think more deeply about the conceptual foundations of their methods and the ethical implications of their activities.</td>
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<td>Is it morally permissible to genetically modify foods?</td>
<td>Who owns the rights to property? How should we understand intellectual property?</td>
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<td>How should we balance the interests of technological innovation and preservation of the environment?</td>
<td>Is there a way to validate/justify the scientific method?</td>
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<td>Are beliefs based on empirical observation the only kind of beliefs that can be known/justified?</td>
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<td>If determinism were true, would that undermine free will and moral responsibility?</td>
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<td>What is the nature of consciousness? Can there be artificial intelligence?</td>
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<td>Can evolution account for design?</td>
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</table>
**WHY I SHOULD MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY**

**Questions?**  
**E-mail**  
Prof. Annemarie Butler  
butlera@iastate.edu

201 Introduction to Philosophy  
206 Introduction to Logic and Scientific Reasoning  
207 Introduction to Symbolic Logic  
230 Moral Theory and Practice  
235 Ethical Issues in A Diverse Society  
310 Ancient Philosophy  
314 17th Century Philosophy  
315 18th Century Philosophy  
316 19th Century Continental  
317 20th and 21st Century Continental Philosophy  
318 20th and 21st Century Anglo-American Philosophy  
330 Ethical Theory  
331 Moral Problems in Medicine  
332 Philosophy of Law  
334 Environmental Ethics  
335 Social and Political Philosophy  
336 Bioethics and Biotechnology  
338 Feminist Philosophy  
340 Aesthetics  
343 Philosophy of Technology  
350 Philosophy of Religion  
364 Metaphysics: God, Minds, and Matter  
366 Truth, Belief, and Reason  
380 Philosophy of Science  
400 or above. The core curriculum shall come from courses numbered 300 or above. At least nine of these fifteen credits (five courses) in philosophy as a second major are the same as the requirements for the major. Philosophy may be designated as the primary or secondary major.  

**MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY**  
A minor is philosophy is an excellent complement to any major. The minor in philosophy requires fifteen credits (five courses) in philosophy. At least nine of these credits shall come from courses numbered 300 or above.