

Hi, everyone! My name is Carly, and I am a recent 2021 graduate (WHOO!) of Appalachian State University. I am originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, and received my degree in Philosophy with a minor in Gender, Womens', and Sexuality studies.

My personal interest in philosophy was unexpected. I came to Appalachian as a political science major set on my path as a novice (and die-hard) politician. However, after one semester, I quickly switched paths and began pursuing nursing...soon realizing that was not the path for me either. I struggled in vain through courses like statistics and chemistry, losing interest and passion as I continued. Interestingly enough; however, it was on this very path that I discovered my love for philosophy. I was required to take a course titled "Philosophy, Society, and Ethics" in order to meet nursing requirements. Discussing important political issues- like gun control, abortion, or even sanity- through a philosophical lens was a way of thinking I had never been exposed to and I desperately wanted to know more. What began as simply a requirement became a life-changing course and that very semester I changed my major to philosophy.



Philosophy grabbed my interest quickly and has maintained its grip even now post-grad. I find it to be exciting, ever changing, and the most unique mix of cynical hopefulness that I have ever encountered. My particular interests lie in the areas of applied philosophy and ethics, even turning these interests into a senior research project centered around bioethics. In this department, I found my place giving two seminar-like talks in the moral science club as well as receiving the Davis Scholarship my senior year. Philosophy has provided me with an abundance of opportunities whether in or outside of an academic setting. My love for philosophy will carry into my graduate education as my third, and final, major change also prompted an interest in legal studies. Truthfully, I think distancing myself from the field would make me unhappy, pushing me to use my passion for philosophy in my career. Philosophy has provided me with a foundation for law school that I doubt I could achieve in any other field, not even pre-law.

What I value most about our Philosophy Department here at Appalachian State is the solidarity both created and felt by students and professors alike. When we struggled, we struggled together and when we succeeded, we succeeded in numbers. This department has created a tight-knit community not under the threat of being exclusive- something I feel is refreshing and liberating. The knowledge, connections, and friendships that this department has to offer are special and irreplaceable.