Philosophy

Why Philosophy?

The Department of Philosophy provides BA, MA and PhD degrees to a diverse variety of students with unique interests. The Department welcomes both interdisciplinary research and more traditional approaches to philosphy. Stony Brook provides a range of courses in ancient, medieval, and modern thoughts, to courses involved with Feminism and Critical Race Theory.

Programs

- Honors Program in Philosophy
  - 3.0 Overall GPA Required
  - 3.5 GPA in Philosophy
- MBA Fast Track Program
  - Earn an MBA in one extra year
- MA Masters Program

Skills you'll acquire

- Highly developed analytical and critical thinking skills
- Reading, writing, and speaking skills
- Research skills
- Ability to convey information clearly, concisely and tactfully
- Critical fluency in foundational ideas of Western cultures and cultures outside of West

Stony Brook University
College *of* Arts and Sciences

What our alumni are saying…
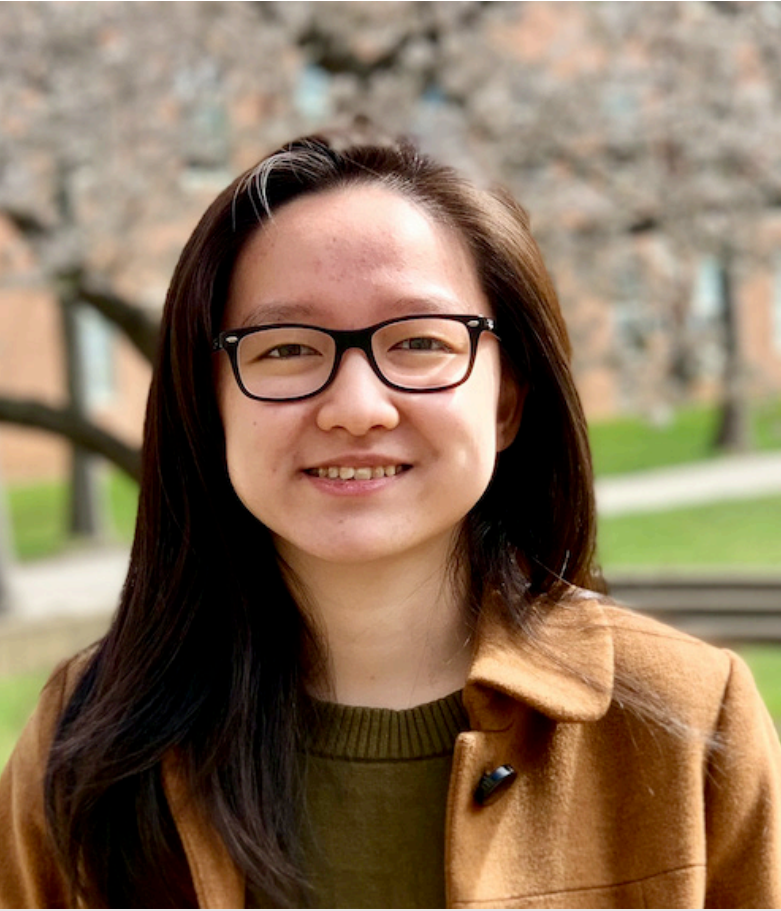
Alice Mo '22
Summa Cum Laude
BA Philosophy

I came to Stony Brook as a Biochemistry major, but changed my major to Philosophy at the beginning of my sophomore year. I think I was most drawn to how philosophy afforded me the space to think deeply about the most fundamental questions about life and the world that I had wondered about since I was in middle school. I also had never felt as engaged in my own learning to the level I did when I started studying philosophy.

Favorite class?

My most transformative class I've taken was PHI 247: Existentialism with Prof. Alan Kim. I took this class during the first semester of my sophomore year and it made me sure that studying philosophy was what I wanted to do for the rest of my college years. Another one of my favorite classes was Prof. Clyde Lee Miller's seminar (PHI 401) on Plato's Theaetetus, which was an utterly fascinating and challenging class on the question of, what is knowledge.

Greatest Achievement?

My greatest achievement is probably choosing to study philosophy and trying hard to become better at it these past three years. Up until my freshman year, I had thought I wanted to study medicine and even had a 4-year excel file on how I was going to do that in college. Choosing to study philosophy from my own desire is one of the things I am most proud of because I chose to go down a path unknown to me and to the people around me, which is always something very scary at first. Yet, that decision was probably the best decision I made in my life.

Advice for Future Seawolves…

"In order to be the best that you can be, you need to be doing something that truly interests you, and it's also a matter of finding the courage to try and do what you might enjoy, especially if not many others around you are doing it.

Let yourself be transformed by new experiences, especially intellectual ones! Apply for things you're interested in, even if it seems out of reach; as my professor says, "let them reject you, don't count yourself out." And, take the initiative for what you want. Being honest, genuine, and kind will make you happier and improve all aspects of your life!"

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