

# PHILOSOPHY, BA

**Degree:** Bachelor of Arts (BA)

**Major:** Philosophy

## Program Overview

The Department of Philosophy offers an undergraduate major leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. It also offers minor programs for undergraduates as well as graduate-level courses for candidates for the Master of Arts degree in such fields as biomedical ethics, history, English, mathematics, and the sciences.

The department's course offerings are designed not only to provide knowledge and skills required for students whose main interest is in philosophy, but also to educate students in general about the intellectual issues that a reflective person is likely to encounter in various life contexts. The department emphasizes the relevance of philosophy to mathematics, computer science, the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities and arts, and law.

The major program in philosophy, besides offering a solid foundation for advanced study in philosophy and enriching programs in other disciplines, develops the skills for analytical and critical thinking, effective communication, and rational decision making needed in a wide range of endeavors. The program thus provides majors with unusual flexibility in the choice of subsequent careers, including law, medicine, and management, while complementing the pursuit of career objectives with a greater perspective and a richer quality of intellectual life.

In collaboration with the Department of History, the department participates in an interdisciplinary major in the History and Philosophy of Science Program, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. The department also participates in, and contributes courses to, the interdisciplinary minor in artificial intelligence in the Department of Computer and Data Sciences, Case School of Engineering.

## Undergraduate Policies

For undergraduate policies and procedures, please review the Office of Undergraduate Studies section of the General Bulletin.

## Accelerated Master's Programs

Undergraduate students may participate in accelerated programs toward graduate or professional degrees. For more information and details of the policies and procedures related to accelerated studies, please visit the Office of Undergraduate Studies section of the General Bulletin.

## Program Requirements

Students seeking to complete this major and degree program must meet the general requirements for bachelor's degrees and the general requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences. Students completing this program as a secondary major while completing another undergraduate degree program do not need to satisfy the latter set of requirements.

The major consists of 30 hours (ten 3-credit courses) in philosophy, including PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy, PHIL 201 Introduction to Logic, PHIL 301 Ancient Philosophy, PHIL 302 Modern Philosophy, and six other elective philosophy courses to be determined in consultation

with the department's undergraduate advisor. However, a student may request permission to take up to 6 hours (two 3-credit courses) of the required 18 hours of philosophy electives in another field or other fields. Such a request should be supported by considerations showing how the substitution(s) would strengthen the student's major in philosophy. The advisor must approve the substitution(s) in advance.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Major Required Courses</b>		
PHIL 101	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL 201	Introduction to Logic	3
PHIL 301	Ancient Philosophy	3
PHIL 302	Modern Philosophy	3
Six philosophy electives chosen in consultation with advisor. With permission of advisor, up to 6 hours may be taken outside the department. Only 3 units are permitted to be from a University Seminar. Please contact the department for a current list of University Seminars that may be taken for credit towards the major.		18
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

## Philosophy Capstone

Students may fulfill their SAGES capstone requirement in philosophy by registering for PHIL 398 Philosophy Capstone after devising a suitable project in consultation with the undergraduate advisor and the supervising faculty member. The honors thesis counts for capstone credit as well.

## Departmental Honors

The department offers an honors program for students pursuing a major in philosophy. Students in this program must complete a substantial thesis, pass an oral examination on the thesis, and maintain a B average in philosophy courses. To be eligible for admission, a student should have an overall grade point average of B or better, and a grade of B or better in each philosophy course already taken. A student normally should have taken at least four, and at most seven, philosophy courses at the time of application for admission. An honors student should register for PHIL 399 Philosophy Honors Thesis to do honors work. Interested students should apply for admission to the program during the first semester of junior year. The honors thesis counts for capstone credit as well.