

Philosophy (PHI)

- Major: 36 credit hours
- Minor: 15 credit hours
- Major/minor GPA required for graduation: 2.25
- All courses for the major/minor must be completed with a grade of a C- or better.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete two semesters of a single foreign language or equivalent
- Capstone: Students complete a capstone experience, which includes an independent Study focusing on the profession of philosophy in addition to capstone activities such as leading discussions in 300-level courses.

Description of Major: Studying philosophy helps students confront in a methodical and constructive way fundamental questions and problems, both theoretical and practical, about themselves, their culture, and the natural world. Philosophy addresses the “big questions,” including: What is the meaning of life? What duties do we have to others? What makes a society or law just? Is faith compatible with reason? What is the relation of mind to brain? As the oldest and most basic of the liberal arts disciplines, philosophy provides a foundation for addressing such questions, but also cultivates skills in reasoning and argumentation that are critical to graduate studies, law school, employment, and, indeed, to being an informed and engaged citizen.

Majoring in philosophy allows students to develop familiarity with a basic intellectual vocabulary through which discussion of central questions has occurred, as well as an ability to recognize relationships between past philosophies and basic presuppositions of Western culture today. Philosophy also seeks to develop students' ability to recognize philosophical issues and to assess critically the response of various thinkers to those issues, while developing empathic skills in entering the “mind set” of given thinkers. Majors will emerge with the tools for diagnosing their own intellectual presuppositions and those of their culture, thus moving them to develop and express their own careful thinking about central philosophical questions.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Develop the interpretive, critical, and argumentative skills necessary for academic excellence, career success, and civil engagement.
- Know the major figures, issues, and debates in the history of Western philosophy, both ancient and modern.
- Explain, analyze, and evaluate the ethical and social issues that inform our personal and social lives.
- Create a perspective from which students can synthesize all their studies and develop a sense of how philosophy bears on other disciplines.

Degree Preparation: The study of philosophy develops skills essential to success in future education and employment, including: critical thinking, evaluation and construction of sophisticated arguments, consideration of many different perspectives on a single subject, clear written communication on complex topics, and the ability to synthesize and organize complex information. Students majoring in philosophy often enter the fields of law, medicine, journalism, or business, in addition to pursuing graduate studies in philosophy itself. A major or minor in philosophy, in tandem with a major in a

narrower professional field or other academic discipline, will serve the student well as career advancement comes to require flexibility of mind, and insight into the essentials of a situation, as well as analytical skills.

It is suggested that the student consider a major or minor in a second field. The following courses, many of which also fulfill core curriculum requirements, are suggested but not required for the major in philosophy: ART 210 and/or 211; ECO 211 and/or 212; HIS 161, 162; PSI 202; PSY 153; REL 320; SOC 149, 150, 407; SPC 210.

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS **36 crs.**

PHI 201	INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	(3)
PHI 204	LOGIC	(3)
PHI 363	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL (W)	(3)
PHI 364	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: RENAISSANCE AND MODERN (W)	(3)
PHI 410	SENIOR THESIS IN PHILOSOPHY (W)	(3)
	FOREIGN LANGUAGE	(6)

AT LEAST 15 CREDITS FROM AMONG THE FOLLOWING

PHI 206	INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS	(3)
PHI 325	PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (W)	(3)
PHI 331	SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (W)	(3)
PHI 333	METAPHYSICS AND HUMAN NATURE (W)	(3)
PHI 334	PHILOSOPHY OF ART (W)	(3)
PHI 336	EXISTENTIALISM (W)	(3)
PHI 345	PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (W)	(3)
PHI 390	ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY (W)	(3)
PHI 391	MEDICAL ETHICS (W)	(3)
PHI 480	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN PHILOSOPHY	(1-4)
PHI 490	SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY	(1-4)
	ANY PHI TOPICS COURSE	(1-4)

PHILOSOPHY MINOR REQUIREMENTS **15 crs.**

PHI 201	INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	(3)
	12 credits of electives in Philosophy (Only one course from PHI 390 and 391, and one course from PHI 206 and 332, will count toward the minor.)	(12)

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