

Philosophy BA

Philosophy is about hard questions: Are we free? Is there a God? What is knowledge? What should I do with my life? In addressing these questions, philosophy develops your skills in thinking, analysis, writing, argumentation and critical reading. Studying philosophy makes you more open-minded: you'll encounter the ideas of people that have lived lives very different from yours, and you'll be impressed by them. Philosophy is enormously interesting and rewarding. If anyone ever asks you "why study philosophy?" you'll answer "why haven't you started yet?"

The undergraduate major in philosophy requires 30 hours of philosophy coursework. A minimum of 18 hours in Philosophy must be taken from the UMSL Department of Philosophy. Courses above the 3000-level taken elsewhere do not count toward the major. Philosophy majors must complete all required courses (under Course Requirements) with a grade of "C-" or higher and maintain a 2.0 GPA for all their Philosophy coursework.

General Education Requirements

Majors must meet the university and college general education requirements. Candidates for the B.A. degree may take any foreign language to meet the foreign language requirement. Students who double major with a B.A. in Philosophy and a B.S. degree in Biology, Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, or Physics may waive the foreign language requirement.

Course Requirements

History of Philosophy

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 1110	Western Philosophy I: Antiquity to the Renaissance
PHIL 3301	Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 3302	Medieval Philosophy

And one of the following: 3

PHIL 1111	Western Philosophy II: Descartes to the Present
PHIL 3303	Early Modern Philosophy
PHIL 3304	19th and 20th Century Philosophy

Logic

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 1160	Critical Thinking (MOTR PHIL 101)
PHIL 3360	Formal Logic

Normative Philosophy

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 1030	Present Moral Problems
PHIL 1130	Approaches to Ethics (MOTR PHIL 102)
PHIL 4430	Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 4435	Classical Ethical Theory
PHIL 4438	Recent Ethical Theory

Junior Level Requirement

Select one of the following: 3

Any 3000 level Philosophy course not used to satisfy a requirement above, excluding PHIL 3320

Metaphysics and Epistemology Requirement

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 3340	Knowledge and Reality
PHIL 4440	Theories of Knowledge
PHIL 4445	Metaphysics

Senior Capstone Requirement 3

Select any 4000 level Philosophy course, excluding PHIL 4458 and PHIL 4465, that has not been used to satisfy a requirement above

Elective Hours 9

Total Hours 30

Departmental Honors

Majors with a 3.2 or higher grade point average in all courses may, with the department's consent, earn departmental honors by:

1. Taking , Introduction to Formal Logic;
2. Completing at least 3 hours of PHIL 4450, Special Readings in Philosophy;
3. Submitting an acceptable thesis before the end of the senior year.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- Recall a broad range of philosophers and philosophies in both western and non-western traditions and understand their interrelations and historical significance
- Demonstrate an ability to read and engage critically with historical and contemporary philosophical texts
- Demonstrate an ability to apply the distinctive methods of philosophy by reconstructing philosophical arguments and deliberating rationally over their merits
- Understand fundamental moral theories and demonstrate an ability to apply them to ethical problems and practical pursuits
- Demonstrate competence with formal reasoning tools such as syllogistic logic, propositional logic, quantificational logic, or probability theory and show an ability to apply those to tools in philosophical and everyday contexts
- Apply philosophical concepts, analytical skills, and critical thinking to disciplines and issues outside of philosophy
- Create and defend their own philosophical views, both by writing in a clear and persuasive style and in oral discussion with other students, faculty and members of the community
- Apply research skills, including an ability to work with primary and secondary literature, in writing argumentative philosophical papers in a chosen area of advanced study

Sample Four Year Plan

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
INTDSC 1003		1 PHIL 1111	3
PHIL 1110		3 Foreign Language 1002	5
ENGL 1100		3 CORE – Communication Proficiency	3
CORE - Mathematics Proficiency		3 EXPLORE – Social Sciences	3
Foreign Language 1001		5 EXPLORE – Mathematics and Life/ Natural Sciences	3
		15	17

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PHIL 1030		3 PHIL 1160	3
Foreign Language 2101		3 EXPLORE – Social Sciences	3
CORE – Information Literacy		3 EXPLORE – Math and Like/Natural Sciences	3
CORE – US History and Government		3 Cultural Diversity Requirement	3
EXPLORE – Mathematics & Natural/ Like Sciences		3 Elective or minor	3
	15		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PHIL 3378 or 3380		3 PHIL 4440 or 4445	3
PHIL XXXX Philosophy Elective		3 PHIL XXXX Philosophy Elective	3
ENGL 3100		3 Elective or minor	3
EXPLORE – Social Sciences		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
	15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PHIL XXXX Philosophy Elective		3 PHIL XXXX: Philosophy Capstone	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	1
	15		13

Total Hours: 120