

# BA in Philosophy

## Degree Program Description

Philosophy is the search for reasoned answers to certain fundamental questions about the nature of the universe and the place of humans in it, questions that science seems unable to answer. To do philosophy is to construct and evaluate the best arguments for and against the various possible answers to these questions. The Bachelor of Arts is broader in scope than the Bachelor of Science, and is the better choice for most students. The practical value of studying philosophy lies in the intellectual training it provides. Successful study of philosophy requires, and helps develop, several valuable intellectual abilities: to grasp the big picture as well as fine details; to think, speak, and write about abstract conceptual questions; to identify the key assumptions of arguments; to make relevant distinctions; and to assess the pros and cons of proposed solutions. These abilities are highly prized in a wide variety of careers, and philosophy majors go on to successful careers in many fields, including law, medicine, and business.

## Major Program Requirements

Undergraduates pursuing a BA degree in philosophy must meet all the non-philosophy requirements for a BA degree. In addition to University (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/#undergraduatetext>) requirements, students must also meet the following major program requirements. All major requirements in the College of Arts and Science must be completed with grades of C- or higher unless otherwise indicated. In addition, it is recommended, but not required for students to pursue a minor in another field.

Students must earn 30 credits in philosophy, with a grade of "C-" or above in every course, distributed as follows:

<b>Logic Requirement</b>	<b>3</b>
One of the following three courses:	
PHIL 1200      How to Think: Logic and Reasoning for Everyday Life	
PHIL 1200H      How to Think: Logic and Reasoning for Everyday Life - Honors	
PHIL 2700      Elementary Logic (recommended option)	
<b>History Requirement</b>	<b>6</b>
Both of the following courses:	
PHIL 3000      Ancient Western Philosophy	
PHIL 3200      Modern Philosophy	
<b>3000-Level/4000-Level Requirement</b>	<b>9</b>
Any three semester-based courses at the 3000-level or 4000-level not already taken to meet other major requirements, except for 4998 and 4999.	
<b>Capstone Requirement</b>	<b>3</b>
Any semester-based course at the 4000-level not already taken to meet other major requirements, except for 4998 and 4999.	
<b>Philosophy Electives</b>	<b>9</b>

Nine philosophy credits in any courses not already taken to meet other major requirements, except for 4998 and 4999; but no more than three 1000-level philosophy courses may be used as philosophy electives.

**Total Credits** **30**

## Semester Plan

Below is a sample plan of study, semester by semester. A student's actual plan is likely to vary, depending on his or her course choices and whether options are available.

First Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
ENGLSH 1000		3 Social Science	3
Humanities/Fine Arts course		3 Second Language II	5
Second Language I		5 General elective	3
PHIL 1000 or 1100		3 MATH 1050, 1100, or STAT 1200	3
			<b>14</b>
			<b>14</b>
Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Philosophy elective		3 PHIL 2700, 1200, or 1200H	3
Second Language III		3 Humanities/Fine Arts (Writing Intensive)	3
Behavioral Science		3 Behavioral Science	3
Social Science		3 Social Science	3
Natural Science		3 Natural Science	3
			<b>15</b>
			<b>15</b>
Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
PHIL 3000		3 PHIL 3200	3
Course in minor		3 Philosophy elective	3
Diversity Intensive Course		3 Course in the minor	3
Natural Science course with lab		4 Humanities/Fine Arts course	3
Writing Intensive 1000+		3 Writing Intensive 1000+	3
			<b>16</b>
			<b>15</b>
Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Philosophy course, 3000 or 4000-level		3 Philosophy course, 3000 or 4000-level	3
Philosophy course, 3000 or 4000-level		3 Philosophy course, 4000-level	3
Course in minor		3 Course in minor	3
Humanities/Fine Arts course		3 Course in minor	3
General Elective		4 General elective	3
			<b>16</b>
			<b>15</b>

**Total Credits: 120**