

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 (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<https://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:

Logic Requirement	3
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)
History Requirement	6
Both of the following courses:	
PHIL 3000	Ancient Western Philosophy
PHIL 3200	Modern Philosophy
3000-Level/4000-Level Requirement	9
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.	
Capstone Requirement	3
Any semester-based course at the 4000-level not already taken to meet other major requirements, except for 4998 and 4999.	
Philosophy Electives	9

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		3 Second Language Requirement	4
Second Language Requirement		4 Math and Quantitative Reasoning	3
PHIL 1000 or 1100		3 Behavioral Science	3
		Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective	3
			13
			16
Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Second Language Requirement		4 PHIL 2700, 1200, or 1200H	3
Philosophy major course		3 Humanities from Arts and Science	3
Missouri State Law Requirement: Social Science from Arts and Science		3 First Writing Intensive	3
Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science		3 Social Science, 2000+ level	3
Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective		3 Biological or Physical Science Lab	3
			16
			15
Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
PHIL 3000W		3 PHIL 3200	3
Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science		3 Philosophy major course	3
undefined		3 Humanities, 2000+ level	3
Behavioral Science from Arts and Science, 2000+ level		3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective	3
Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective		3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective	3
			15
			15
Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Philosophy, 3000+ level		3 Philosophy, 3000+ level	3
Philosophy, 3000+ level		3 Philosophy, 4000+ level	3
Humanities		3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective	3
Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective		3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective	3
Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective		3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective	3
			15
			15

Total Credits: 120