

BS 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 Science emphasizes the formal aspects of philosophy and its many connections with the sciences; it may be a better choice for those wishing to double (or dual) major in philosophy and a science. 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

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 place of the foreign language requirement, they may take 12 hours of coursework at the 2000-level or higher in Mathematics, Statistics, Physical or Biological Sciences, Psychology, or Economics. In addition, they are recommended, but not required, to pursue a minor in another field. Finally, they must earn 42 credits in philosophy, with a grade of "C-" or above in every course, distributed as follows:

Required Courses	9
PHIL 2700 Elementary Logic	
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.	
Any four semester-based courses from the following list:	12
PHIL 2600 Rational Decisions	
PHIL 2820 Minds, Brains, and Machines	
PHIL 2850 Minds and Morals: An Introduction to Moral Psychology	
PHIL 4100 Language, Meaning, and Reality	
PHIL 4110 Advanced Logic	
PHIL 4120 Selected Topics in Logic	
PHIL 4130 Living with Uncertainty: An Introduction to Probability and Inductive Logic	
PHIL 4150 Formal Semantics	

PHIL 4200	The Nature of Things: An Introduction to Metaphysics	
PHIL 4210	Consciousness, Thought, and the Brain	
PHIL 4400	The Nature of Scientific Inquiry	
PHIL 4420	Life and Evolution: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Biology	
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		42

Semester Plan

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

First Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
PHIL 1000, 1100, or 1200		3 Natural science	3
ENGLSH 1000		3 Second language or alternative requirement II	5-6
Behavioral or Social Science		3 Philosophy elective	3
Second language or alternative requirement I		5-6 MATH 1050, 1100, or STAT 1200	3
			14-15
Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Behavioral or Social Science		3 Philosophy elective	3
Natural Science		3 Humanities/Fine Arts course (writing intensive)	3
PHIL 2700		3 Behavioral or social Science	3
Second Language or alternative III		3 Natural science	3
Writing Intensive 1000+		3 Diversity Intensive Course	3
			15
Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
PHIL 3000		3 PHIL 3200	3
Philosophy course, 3000- or 4000-level		3 Humanities/Fine Arts course	3
Natural science with lab		4-5 General elective	3
General electives		6 Philosophy course, 3000- or 4000-level	3
			Philosophy course, 3000- or 4000-level
			16-17
Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Philosophy course for BS		3 Philosophy course for BS	3
Philosophy course for BS		3 Philosophy course, 4000-level	3
Philosophy course for BS		3 Humanities/Fine Arts course	3
General elective		3 General elective	3

General elective	3 General elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits: 119-122