

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 (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegree/requirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegree/requirements/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 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:

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| 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 | |

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| 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 MATH 1050 or 1100 | 3 |
| ENGLSH 1000 | | 3 Philosophy major elective | 3 |
| Behavioral or Social Science | | 3 Second Language or Alternative Requirement | 4 |
| Second Language or Alternative Requirement | | 4 undefined | 3 |
| Humanities | | 3 Missouri State Law Requirement: Social Science from Arts and Science | 3 |
| | | | 16 |
| Second Year | | | |
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| PHIL 2700 | | 3 Biological or Physical Science Lab | 3 |
| Philosophy major elective | | 3 Behavioral or Social Science, 2000+ level | 3 |
| First Writing Intensive | | 3 Humanities from Arts and Science | 3 |
| Second Language or Alternative Requirement | | 4 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective | 3 |
| Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science | | 3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective | 3 |
| | | | 16 |
| Third Year | | | |
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| PHIL 3000W | | 3 PHIL 3200 | 3 |
| Philosophy, 3000+ level | | 3 Philosophy course for B.S. | 3 |
| Philosophy course for B.S. | | 3 Philosophy, 3000+ level | 3 |
| Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science | | 3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective | 3 |
| Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective | | 3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective | 3 |
| | | | 15 |

| Fourth Year | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| Philosophy course for B.S. | | 3 Philosophy, 4000+ level | 3 |
| Philosophy, 3000+ level | | 3 Philosophy, 3000+ level | 3 |
| Humanities | | 3 Philosophy course for B.S. | 3 |
| Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective | | 3 Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective | 3 |
| Second Major, Minor, Certificate, or Elective | | 3 | |
| | 15 | | 12 |

Total Credits: 120