Philosophy, B.A.

Undergraduate courses in philosophy are designed to impart knowledge of fundamental issues and main developments in philosophy while strengthening logical and analytic skills.

The department sponsors an active Philosophy Club that hosts informal discussion meetings; movie nights; outreach events; a 1 sh. course, PHIL:1950 Philosophy Club; and other activities. The department also offers a service-learning course, PHIL:3920 Philosophy in Public.

Learning Outcomes

The goals of philosophical training are:

• to think critically and make well-grounded arguments, both orally and in written work;
• to understand key philosophical problems and major traditions;
• to learn variegated approaches to solving problems;
• to detect problems and puzzles that are not readily apparent;
• to develop critical listening;
• to learn a step-by-step approach to the mastery of public speaking; and
• to read and interpret all forms of text—news reports, books, film, television, etc.

Department of Philosophy Initiatives

• Applying philosophical concepts to everyday affairs.
• Creating community through movie nights, the philosophy club, public lectures, optional one-hour lab sections for students to work more closely with research faculty, an undergraduate colloquium series, and the undergraduate journal—Labryrinth.
• Outreach and engagement; for example, through the service-learning course, PHIL:3920 Philosophy in Public, the K-12 Iowa Lyceum Summer Philosophy Institute, and outreach with the Johnson County Senior Center.
• The philosophy undergraduate internship program.
• Prompt and helpful advising.
• Career guidance and support.
• An annual newsletter that connects students with successful alumni.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in philosophy requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 30 s.h. of work for the major. A minimum of 15 s.h. for the major must be earned at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Students should discuss the requirements for the major with an advisor as soon as possible. The advisor can suggest the most effective order for taking courses, based on each student's interests and on the relation of the course topics to each other. See Courses in this section of the Catalog for a complete listing of philosophy courses.

Students can only count one of these courses toward the major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3902</td>
<td>Workshop: Analytical Skills for the LSAT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3904</td>
<td>Workshop: Analytical Skills for the GMAT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3906</td>
<td>Workshop: Analytical Skills for the MCAT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3908</td>
<td>Workshop: Analytical Skills for the GRE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the 30 s.h. of philosophy course work (prefix PHIL) required for the major, at least two courses must be numbered 4000 or above. Credit earned in PHIL:4920 Research Practicum does not count toward the major, but the grade earned in this course becomes part of a student's major grade-point average.

The B.A. with a major in philosophy requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Value Theory Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Metaphysics/Epistemology Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Modern Philosophy Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory Logic Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philosophy Electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1000-Level Course Options

Only 6 s.h. of the total hours required for the major can be taken in course work numbered at the 1000 level (see the list below for options).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:1033</td>
<td>The Meaning of Life</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:1034</td>
<td>Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:1401</td>
<td>Matters of Life and Death</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:1636</td>
<td>Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:1861</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Value Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2352</td>
<td>Chinese Philosophy (if content is applicable; check with instructor)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2402</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2415</td>
<td>Bioethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2422</td>
<td>Feminist Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2429</td>
<td>War, Terrorism, and Torture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2432</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2435</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2436</td>
<td>The Nature of Evil</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3342</td>
<td>Multiculturalism and Toleration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Hours</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3430</td>
<td>Philosophy of Human Rights</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL:3431</td>
<td>Aesthetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3510</td>
<td>Neuroethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3845</td>
<td>Buddhist Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3847</td>
<td>Philosophical Issues (if content is applicable; check with instructor)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:4152</td>
<td>Plato (if content is applicable; check with instructor)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:4153</td>
<td>Aristotle (if content is applicable; check with instructor)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:4375</td>
<td>Rawls’s Political Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:4480</td>
<td>Analytic Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:4481</td>
<td>Issues in Philosophy of Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:4482</td>
<td>Early Modern Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:4485</td>
<td>Political Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:4798</td>
<td>Topics in Philosophy (if content is applicable; check with instructor)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Metaphysics/Epistemology

**Code** | **Title**                                      | **Hours** |
---|---|---|
- PHIL:2343 | Philosophy East and West                      | 3 |
- PHIL:2352 | Chinese Philosophy (if content is applicable; check with instructor) | 3 |
- PHIL:2437 | Introduction to Metaphysics                  | 3 |
- PHIL:2442 | Knowledge and the Threat of Skepticism        | 3 |
- PHIL:2480 | Language and Its Social Roles                 | 3 |
- PHIL:2534 | Philosophy of Religion                        | 3 |
- PHIL:2538 | Minds and Machines                            | 3 |
- PHIL:2542 | Minds and Brains                              | 3 |
- PHIL:3002 | Ancient Skepticism                            | 3 |
- PHIL:3112 | Medieval Philosophy                           | 3 |
- PHIL:3143 | Existentialism                                | 3 |
- PHIL:3318 | Twentieth-Century Philosophy                  | 3 |
- PHIL:3604 | Introduction to Philosophy of Science         | 3 |
- PHIL:3633 | Philosophy of History                         | 3 |
- PHIL:3847 | Philosophical Issues (if content is applicable; check with instructor) | 3 |
- PHIL:4050 | Topics in Buddhist Philosophy                 | 3 |
- PHIL:4152 | Plato (if content is applicable; check with instructor) | 3 |
- PHIL:4153 | Aristotle (if content is applicable; check with instructor) | 3 |
- PHIL:4258 | Descartes                                    | 3 |
- PHIL:4260 | Spinoza and Leibniz                           | 3 |
- PHIL:4263 | Berkeley and Hume                            | 3 |
- PHIL:4266 | Kant                                        | 3 |
- PHIL:4346 | Frege and Russell                             | 3 |
- PHIL:4373 | Heidegger                                    | 3 |
- PHIL:4377 | Wittgenstein                                 | 3 |
- PHIL:4379 | Quine                                        | 3 |
- PHIL:4586 | Topics in Metaphysics                        | 3 |
- PHIL:4587 | Epistemology                                 | 3 |
- PHIL:4588 | Philosophy of Mind                           | 3 |
- PHIL:4589 | Philosophy of Language                       | 3 |
- PHIL:4590 | Foundations of Cognitive Science             | 3 |
- PHIL:4694 | Philosophy of Science                        | 3 |
- PHIL:4696 | Philosophy of the Human Sciences             | 3 |
- PHIL:4798 | Topics in Philosophy (if content is applicable; check with instructor) | 3 |

### Ancient Philosophy

**Code** | **Title**                                      | **Hours** |
---|---|---|
- PHIL:2111 | Ancient Philosophy                            | 3 |

### Modern Philosophy

**Code** | **Title**                                      | **Hours** |
---|---|---|
- PHIL:2214 | Seventeenth-Century Philosophy                | 3 |
- PHIL:2215 | Modern Philosophy                             | 3 |
- PHIL:2216 | Eighteenth-Century Philosophy                | 3 |

### Introductory Logic

**Code** | **Title**                                      | **Hours** |
---|---|---|
- PHIL:2603 | Introduction to Symbolic Logic                | 3 |

### Combined Programs

**B.A./J.D.**

The Department of Philosophy participates in the 3+3 program with the College of Law which allows students the opportunity to apply for admission during their junior year to the College of Law, and if accepted, to begin work on the Juris Doctor degree during their fourth year of study in the B.A. degree program. For more information, see the 3+3 Program on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences website and Juris Doctor, J.D. (College of Law) in the Catalog.

### Honors

**Honors in the Major**

Students majoring in philosophy have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. In order to be admitted to the departmental honors program, a student must have taken and passed three courses required for the philosophy major. To graduate with honors in the major, students must complete the requirements for the major with a g.p.a. of at least 3.40 in philosophy course work and must write an
acceptable honors thesis on a significant topic in philosophy of interest to them. Students also must enroll in PHIL:4920 Research Practicum while working on their honors thesis. Contact the department’s director of undergraduate studies for more information.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the philosophy major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least one course in the major

Before the seventh semester begins: at least five courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: at least six courses in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Philosophy, B.A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A minimum of 15 s.h. for the philosophy major must be earned at the University of Iowa. Students can only count one of these courses toward the major: PHIL:3902 Workshop: Analytical Skills for the LSAT, PHIL:3904 Workshop: Analytical Skills for the GMAT, PHIL:3906 Workshop: Analytical Skills for the MCAT, PHIL:3908 Workshop: Analytical Skills for the GRE.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENGL:1200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:1861</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion d</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring

PHIL:1636 Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate g | 3 |
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4 |
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences d | 3 |
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab d | 4 |
Elective course f | 3 |

Hours 16-17

Second Year

Fall

PHIL:2603 Introduction to Symbolic Logic | 3 |
PHIL:2111 Ancient Philosophy | 3 |
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues d | 3 |
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course g | 4 - 5 |
Elective course f | 3 |

Hours 16-17

Spring

PHIL:2215 or PHIL:2214 or PHIL:2216 Modern Philosophy or Seventeenth-Century Philosophy or Eighteenth-Century Philosophy | 3 |
Elective course f | 3 |
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives d | 3 |
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course g | 4 - 5 |
Elective course f | 3 |

Hours 16-17

Third Year

Fall

Major: value theory course | 3 |
Major: metaphysics/epistemology course | 3 |
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab d | 3 |
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course g | 4 - 5 |
Elective course f | 3 |

Hours 16-17

Spring

Major: metaphysics/epistemology course | 3 |
Major: value theory course | 3 |
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course g | 4 - 5 |
Elective course f | 3 |
Elective course f | 3 |

Hours 16-17

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: upper-level course numbered 4000 or above (prefix PHIL) h, i | 3 |
Elective course f | 3 |
Elective course f | 3 |
Elective course f | 3 |
Elective course f 3

Spring
Major: upper-level course numbered 4000 or above
(prefix PHIL) h, i 3

Elective course f 3
Elective course f 3
Elective course f 3
Elective course f 3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline
(typically in February for spring, September for fall) i

Hours 15

Total Hours 124-130

a. Students may choose from PHIL:1033, PHIL:1034, PHIL:1401, PHIL:1636, or PHIL:1861. A student is not required to take any 1000-level courses for the major, but a 1000-level course often serves as an important introduction to help a student determine which particular topics they might want to pursue at a more advanced level.
b. PHIL:1861 fulfills a GE requirement. This course may also count as credit toward the major.
c. Students may include no more than 6 s.h. of 1000-level PHIL courses toward the major.
d. GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
e. This course is recommended for the GE CLAS Core Quantitative or Formal Reasoning requirement. It is not a major requirement.
f. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
g. Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
h. Students complete 30 s.h. of philosophy courses (prefix PHIL), of which at least two courses must be numbered 4000 or above.
i. Credit earned in PHIL:4920 does not count toward the major, but the grade earned in this course becomes part of a student's major GPA.
j. Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor. For more information visit http://commencement.uiowa.edu/. If applicable search for “Early and Late Participation” to find this page (e.g. walk in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferred in August).

Career Advancement

Philosophy graduates have a variety of career options. Many continue their education by studying law or pursuing graduate work in philosophy or other disciplines. Philosophy graduates also enter into such fields as business, medicine, scientific research, government, consulting, journalism, and K-12 education, among others.

Undergraduates are encouraged to enroll in PHIL:3920 Philosophy in Public at least one time before graduating in order to get a head start on their career trajectory. Students who intend to teach philosophy in a college setting must earn a graduate degree.

Philosophy majors earn among the very highest scores on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), and the Graduate College Record Exam (GRE) General Test.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.