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 s.h. course, PHIL:1950 Philosophy in Current Events, Text, and Film, and other activities. The department also offers a service-learning course, PHIL:3920 Philosophy in Public.

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 General Education Program.

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.

The major requires 30 s.h. of philosophy courses (prefix PHIL), of which at least two courses must be numbered 4000 or above.

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

| Value Theory Courses | 6 |
| Metaphysics/Epistemology Courses | 6 |
| Ancient Philosophy Course | 3 |
| Modern Philosophy Course | 3 |
| Introductory Logic Course | 3 |
| Philosophy Electives | 9 |
| **Total Hours** | **30** |

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).

May take two courses from these:

| PHIL:1033 | The Meaning of Life | 3 |
| PHIL:1034 | Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness | 3 |
| PHIL:1401 | Matters of Life and Death | 3 |
| PHIL:1636 | Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate | 3 |
| PHIL:1861 | Introduction to Philosophy | 3 |

Value Theory

Must take at least two of these:

| PHIL:2402 | Introduction to Ethics | 3 |
| PHIL:2415 | Bioethics | 3 |
| PHIL:2429 | War, Terrorism, and Torture | 3 |
| PHIL:2432 | Introduction to Political Philosophy | 3 |
Philosophy, B.A.

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

This course:
PHIL:2111  Ancient Philosophy 3

Modern Philosophy

At least one of these:
PHIL:2214  Seventeenth-Century Philosophy 3
PHIL:2215  Modern Philosophy 3
PHIL:2216  Eighteenth-Century Philosophy 3

Introductory Logic

This course:
PHIL:2603  Introduction to Symbolic Logic 3

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:3950 Readings in Philosophy 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 General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Philosophy (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: introduction to philosophy or any course numbered PHIL:1XXX</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring

| ENGL:1200  | The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature ) | 3     |
| Major: a required history of philosophy or introduction to symbolic logic course | | 3     |
| GE: Natural Sciences with a lab | | 4     |
| GE: Social Sciences | | 3     |
| Elective course | | 2     |
| Hours | | 15    |

Second Year

Fall

| Major: a required history of philosophy or introduction to symbolic logic course | 3     |
| GE: International and Global Issues | | 3     |
| GE: World Languages or elective course | | 3-5   |
| Elective course | | 3     |
Elective course  

Hours 15-17

Spring

Major: a required history of philosophy or introduction to symbolic logic course 3
Major: value theory course 3
GE: Historical Perspectives 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3

Hours 15-17

Third Year

Fall

Major: metaphysics or epistemology course 3
Major: philosophy elective course 3
GE: Natural Sciences without a lab 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3

Hours 15-17

Spring

Major: metaphysics or epistemology course 3
Major: value theory course 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3
Elective course 3

Elective course 3

Hours 15-17

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: upper-level course numbered PHIL:4000 or above 3
Major: philosophy elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3

Hours 15

Spring

Major: upper-level course numbered PHIL:4000 or above 3
Major: philosophy elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3

Hours 15

Total Hours 120-128

1 General Education (GE) 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. For more information, view the General Education Program.

2 Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL:1861) also fulfills the GE: Values and Culture area of the General Education Program.

3 Students may use their elective courses to complete a double major, minors, or certificates. A required philosophy course can be substituted for an elective course.

4 Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

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.