Philosophy, BA

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, departmental public lectures and colloquia, 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, Labyrinth.
- 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.
- 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 grade-point average 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.

Course #  Title                     Hours
PHIL:3902 Workshop: Analytical Skills for the LSAT  3
PHIL:3904 Workshop: Analytical Skills for the GMAT  3
PHIL:3906 Workshop: Analytical Skills for the MCAT  3
PHIL:3908 Workshop: Analytical Skills for the GRE   3

Of the 30 s.h. of philosophy coursework (prefix PHIL) required for the major, at least two courses must be numbered 4000 or above. Only 3 s.h. of PHIL:4920 Research Practicum may be counted toward the major and toward the 4000-level course and area requirement.

The BA with a major in philosophy requires the following coursework.

Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Value Theory Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Metaphysics/Epistemology Courses</td>
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<td>Ancient Philosophy Course</td>
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<td>Modern Philosophy Course</td>
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<td>Introductory Logic Course</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Philosophy Electives</td>
<td>9</td>
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Only 6 s.h. of the total hours required for the major can be taken in coursework numbered 1000-1999 (see the list below for options).

Course #  Title                                          Hours
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

Course #  Title                                          Hours
At least two of these:
PHIL:2402 Introduction to Ethics                         3
PHIL:2415 Bioethics                                     3
PHIL:2422 Feminist Ethics                               3
PHIL:2425 Sex, Marriage, Friendship, and the Law        3
PHIL:2429 War, Terrorism, and Torture                   3
PHIL:2432 Introduction to Political Philosophy          3
PHIL:2435 Philosophy of Law                             3
PHIL:2436 The Nature of Evil                            3
PHIL:3342 Multiculturalism and Tolerance                3
PHIL:3430 Philosophy of Human Rights                    3
PHIL:3431 Aesthetics                                    3
PHIL:3510 Neuroethics                                   3
PHIL:3845 Buddhist Philosophy                           3
PHIL:4375 Rawls's Political Philosophy                  3
PHIL:4480 Analytic Ethics                               3
PHIL:4481 Issues in Philosophy of Law                   3
Philosophy, BA

PHIL:4482 Early Modern Ethics 3
PHIL:4485 Political Philosophy 3
May be taken with permission of the instructor if content is applicable:
PHIL:2352 Chinese Philosophy 3
PHIL:3847 Philosophical Issues 3
PHIL:4152 Plato 3
PHIL:4153 Aristotle 3
PHIL:4798 Topics in Philosophy 3
PHIL:4920 Research Practicum 3
PHIL:6100 Seminar: Ancient Philosophy 3
PHIL:6200 Seminar: Modern Philosophy 3
PHIL:6300 Seminar: Philosophical Analysis 3
PHIL:6510 Seminar: Metaphysics 3
PHIL:6520 Seminar: Epistemology 3
PHIL:6620 Seminar: Philosophy of Science 3

Ancient Philosophy
Course # Title Hours
This course:
PHIL:2111 Ancient Philosophy 3

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

Introductory Logic
Course # Title Hours
This course:
PHIL:2603 Introduction to Symbolic Logic 3

Combined Programs

BA/JD
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 BA degree program.

For more information, see the 3+3 Program for Undergraduates on the College of Law website and the Juris Doctor, JD (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 grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.40 in philosophy coursework and a University of Iowa cumulative GPA of at least 3.33. In addition, they must write an acceptable honors thesis on a significant topic in philosophy of interest to them; students must enroll in PHIL:4920 Research Practicum while working on their honors
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.

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).

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students with résumé writing, career exploration, interview skills, finding internships and jobs, and preparing for the University of Iowa job and internship fair.

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 coursework 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.
| GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab | 3 |
| GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5 |
| Elective course | 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** 4 - 5

**Elective course** 3

**Elective course** 3

**Hours** 16-17

### Fourth Year

#### Fall

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

**Elective course** 3

**Elective course** 3

**Elective course** 3

**Elective course** 3

**Hours** 15

#### Spring

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

**Elective course** 3

**Elective course** 3

**Elective course** 3

**Elective course** 3

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

**Hours** 15

**Total Hours** 124-130

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a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

b Students may include no more than 6 s.h. of 1000-level PHIL courses toward the major.

c PHIL:1861 fulfills a GE requirement. This course may also count as credit toward the major.

d 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.

e 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.

f PHIL:1636 is recommended for the GE CLAS Core Quantitative or Formal Reasoning requirement. It is not a major requirement.

g 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.