Philosophy, B.A.

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.

Philosophy, B.A.

Course Title Hours

Academic Career

Any Semester

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.

First Year

Fall

ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric 3 - 4
PHIL:1861 Introduction to Philosophy a, b, c 3
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion d 3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts 3
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2

Hours 14-15

Spring

PHIL:1636 Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate e 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:2216 or PHIL:2214 or PHIL:2215 Eighteenth-Century Philosophy or Seventeenth-Century Philosophy or Modern 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 Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course g 4 - 5
Elective course f 3
Elective course f 3

Hours 16-17

Spring

Major: metaphysics/epistemology course 3
Major: value theory course 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second 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

Hours 15

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) j

Hours 15

Total Hours 124-130
a PHIL:1861 fulfills a GE requirement. This course may also count as credit toward the major.
b Students may include no more than 6 s.h. of 1000-level PHIL courses toward the major.
c 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.
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 Only 3 s.h. of PHIL:4920 Research Practicum may be counted toward the major and toward the 4000-level course and area requirement.
i Students complete 30 s.h. of philosophy courses (prefix PHIL), of which at least two courses must be numbered 4000 or above.
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 or Graduation Services.