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.

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First Year

Fall

ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 | The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric | 3 - 4 |

PHIL:1861 | Introduction to Philosophy | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts | 3 |

CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2 |

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Spring

PHIL:1636 | Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate | 3 |

RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4 |

GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab | 4 |

Elective course | 3 |

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Second Year

Fall

PHIL:2603 | Introduction to Symbolic Logic | 3 |

PHIL:2111 | Ancient Philosophy | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5 |

Elective course | 3 |

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Spring

PHIL:2216 or PHIL:2214 or PHIL:2215 | Eighteenth-Century Philosophy or Seventeenth-Century Philosophy or Modern Philosophy | 3 |

Elective course | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5 |

Elective course | 3 |

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Third Year

Fall

Major: value theory course | 3 |

Major: metaphysics/epistemology course | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab | 3 |

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5 |

Elective course | 3 |

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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 |

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Fourth Year

Fall

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

Elective course | 3 |

Elective course | 3 |

Elective course | 3 |

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Spring

Major: upper-level course numbered 4000 or above (prefix PHIL) | 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).

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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.