

BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The Bachelor of Philosophy degree is designed to allow students to plan their own programs in conjunction with a faculty mentor and is intended for those few students for whom the present degree requirements are restrictive and not responsive to their needs. While the educational goals of most students are adequately met by existing degree programs, those who can demonstrate that the usual requirements of conventional programs prevent them from adequately meeting their goals may apply. An important standard for admission to the Bachelor of Philosophy degree program will be the ability of students to demonstrate that their stated goals are viable and worthy of a college degree.

The faculty mentor is responsible for assisting the student in planning the program and in achieving the proposed goals. The mentor must be able to certify to the Bachelor of Philosophy Degree Committee that the student has achieved the stated goals. The basis of this certification might be a comprehensive examination (written or oral), a written report, a public seminar or performance, or the presentation of a paper to a national meeting of a professional society, etc. A faculty member may serve as mentor for only one student at any given time.

The program is administered by an intercollege committee under the Office of the Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education. The Bachelor of Philosophy Degree Committee is responsible for selecting the students and their faculty mentors for the program, annually examining the progress of all students in the program, and approving the completion of the degree based on the certification made by the faculty mentor.

What is the Bachelor of Philosophy Degree?

The Bachelor of Philosophy program is Penn State's individual major program. Bachelor of Philosophy degrees bridge traditional disciplines and bring together perspectives from the arts, humanities, and sciences on topics such as sustainability, democracy and art, and religion.

You Might Like This Program If...

You want to integrate two different areas of study, such as Nutrition and Women's Studies, or if you want to create a major that does not exist at Penn State, such as Islamic Studies.