

PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

This major provides in-depth study of fundamental issues that inescapably confront all persons. Topics include ethics, social and political philosophy, and esthetics—study of the good life, justice, and beauty; metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of religion—study of the nature of reality, mind, body, and the meaning of life and death; epistemology, philosophy of science, and logic—study of the nature of knowledge, truth, objectivity, and principles of sound reasoning; and subjects such as comparative philosophies and world cultures, feminist theory, and philosophical issues in technology, language, education, and the professions of law, business, medicine, communications, engineering, and agriculture. These studies enhance imaginative, interpretive, analytical, critical, and communicative capacities. Majors thus may acquire intellectual abilities crucial for self-fulfillment, responsible participation in public life, and success in a wide range of careers—including law, business, education, journalism, medicine, and public service.

Majors pursued concentration in history of philosophy; humanities and arts; philosophy of science and mathematics; social sciences; the professions; or justice, law, and values. This is combined easily with minors, area studies, and concurrent majors. Qualified students participate in honors study and internships.

General Philosophy Option

This option provides students with a concentration in the history of western philosophy and the historical development and impact of philosophical ideas and issues—from the ancient to the contemporary period. It is designed for all students who seek a broad liberal education, including students interested in graduate study in philosophy.

Humanities and Arts Option

This option provides students with a concentration in philosophical issues in the arts, art history, literature, languages, history and religion. It is designed for all students primarily interested in the philosophical dimensions of the arts, humanities, and cultural studies, including students with career or further educational goals in these fields.

Philosophy of Science and Mathematics Option

This option provides students with a concentration in philosophical issues in the life sciences, the physical sciences, mathematics, engineering, and technology. It is designed for all students primarily interested in the philosophical dimensions of the natural sciences, technology, and mathematics, including students with career or further educational goals in these fields.

Social Sciences Option

This option provides students with a concentration in philosophical issues in the social sciences, social and political theory, and education. It is designed for all students primarily interested in the philosophical dimensions of social thought and methodological and normative issues in the social sciences, educational theory, and public policy, including students with career or further educational goals in these fields.

Professional Studies Option

This option provides students with a concentration in philosophical issues and dimensions in the theory and practice of the professions of agriculture, business, engineering, journalism, law, and medicine and health care. It is designed for all students seeking a foundation in the philosophical dimensions of these professions, including students who wish to combine humanistic study with career or further educational goals in these fields.

Justice, Law, and Values Option

This option provides students with a concentration in philosophical issues in aesthetics, ethics, jurisprudence, and social and political theory, and everyday life. It is designed for students primarily interested in moral, social, political, and legal questions concerning value and is especially appropriate for those anticipating future educational work in law school.

What is Philosophy?

Philosophy is the oldest of the liberal arts, and is often defined simply as the love of wisdom. Philosophy is at the core of the liberal arts tradition and provided the foundation for the modern university, yet it remains highly relevant to life in technologically complex, diverse, global, information driven societies such as our own. The Philosophy major provides in-depth study of fundamental issues that inescapably confront all persons, such as ethics, social and political philosophy, aesthetics, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, epistemology, philosophy of science, and logic. These studies enhance imaginative, interpretive, analytical, critical, and communicative capacities. Majors thus may acquire intellectual abilities crucial for self-fulfillment, responsible participation in public life, and success in a wide range of careers—including law, business, education, journalism, medicine, and public service.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to develop critical thinking skills, including constructing, interpreting, and critically analyzing philosophical arguments.
- You want to learn about major thinkers, schools, and trends of the Western philosophical tradition, and to appreciate the importance and value of other thought.
- You want to compose clear, coherent written expressions of complex philosophical ideas, theories, and arguments.
- You have enthusiasm for inquiry and want engage in philosophical discussions about ethics, social and political philosophy, metaphysics, and aesthetics.

Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have at least third-semester classification (<http://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm>).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/>)

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, a minimum of 124 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	25
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	30

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 9 credits in philosophy at the 200 level		9
Requirements for the Option		
<i>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select an option		21

Requirements for the Option General Philosophy Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level		6
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 200	Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 201	Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 202	Modern Philosophy: 1600-1800	
PHIL 203	Nineteenth Century Philosophy	
PHIL 204	Twentieth Century Philosophy	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 9 credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser 9

Humanities and Arts Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		

PHIL 10	Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	
Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level		6
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 401	American Philosophy	
PHIL 402	Seminar in European Philosophy	
PHIL 409	Seminar in Aesthetics	
PHIL 413	Seminar in Philosophy of Literature	
PHIL 424	Seminar in Philosophy of Religion	
PHIL 435	Science and Religion	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 6 additional credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser 6
Select 3 credits at the 400 level in a related arts or humanities discipline, in consultation with adviser 3

Philosophy of Science and Mathematics Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level		6
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 407	Seminar in Philosophy of Technology	
PHIL 410	Seminar in Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 425W		
PHIL 426W	Metaphysics	
PHIL 427	Seminar in Philosophy of Mind	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 6 additional credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser 6
Select 3 credits at the 400 level in a mathematics or natural science discipline, in consultation with adviser 3

Social Sciences Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level		6
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 401	American Philosophy	
PHIL 408W	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 416	Philosophy of Social Science	
PHIL 425W		
PHIL 438	Seminar in Feminist Philosophy	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 additional credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser 6

Select 3 credits at the 400 level in social science, in consultation with adviser 3

Professional Studies Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level 6

PHIL 10	Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 405	Seminar in Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 406		
PHIL 418	Seminar in Ethical Theory	
PHIL 432	Medical and Health Care Ethics	
PHIL 433	Ethics in Science and Engineering	
PHIL 435	Science and Religion	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 9 credits at the 400 level in a professional area outside philosophy, in consultation with adviser 9

Justice, Law, and Values Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

PHIL 105	Philosophy of Law	3
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Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

PHIL 10	Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	

Select 3 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level 3

Select 3 credits in philosophy at the 400 level 3

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 403	Seminar in Environmental Ethics	
PHIL 405	Seminar in Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 406		
PHIL 407	Seminar in Philosophy of Technology	
PHIL 408W	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 418	Seminar in Ethical Theory	
PHIL 425W		
PHIL 432	Medical and Health Care Ethics	
PHIL 433	Ethics in Science and Engineering	
PHIL 438	Seminar in Feminist Philosophy	

Select two of the following: 6

AFAM 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America	
AFAM 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement	
CAS 321	Rhetoric and Law	
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications	
HIST 449	Constitutional History of the United States to 1877	
HIST 450	Constitutional History of the United States since 1877	

LST 370	Research Methods for Law and Government Information Resources
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PLSC 403	The Legislative Process
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PLSC 412	International Political Economy
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PLSC 424	Topics in Comparative Government and Institutions
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PLSC 431	Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Political Theories
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PLSC 432	Modern and Contemporary Political Theories
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PLSC 470W	
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PLSC 471	American Constitutional Law
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PLSC 472	The American Legal Process
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PLSC 474	Civil Liberties and Due Process
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WMNST 423	Sexual and Domestic Violence
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WMNST 453	Women and the Criminal Justice System
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General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Knowledge Domains

- **Arts (GA):** 6 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 6 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 6 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)

- **Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses:** 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

Program Learning Objectives

- The development of critical thinking skills, including the ability to construct, interpret, and critically analyze complex philosophical arguments.
- A developed understanding of several of the major thinkers, schools and trends of the Western philosophical tradition, as well as an appreciation of the importance and value of thought emanating from outside that tradition.
- The ability to compose clear and coherent written expressions of complex philosophical ideas, theories, and arguments.

- An enthusiasm for inquiry and a willingness to engage in philosophical discussions, including those concerning the major thematic areas of philosophy such as ethics, social and political philosophy, metaphysics, and aesthetics.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Majors and Minors web page (<https://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

Suggested Academic plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2022-23 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (*Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin*).

General Philosophy Option: Philosophy, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H [†]	3	1-100 level PHIL Course	3
First Year Seminar	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 1	4	General Education Course	3
1-100 level PHIL Course	3	World Language Level 2	4
General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3	General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3
16		16	

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T [‡]	3 PHIL 12 [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3 Concentration Course [*]	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
World Language Level 3	4 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 BA Knowledge Domain Course	3
16		15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3 Concentration Course [*]	3
General Education Course	3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3 General Education Course	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3 Concentration Course [*]	3
Concentration Course	3 Elective	3
BA Other Cultures	3 Elective	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5
General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5	
16.5		13.5

Total Credits 123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate

an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

Advising Note:

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Humanities and Arts Option: Philosophy, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H [†]	3	1-100 level PHIL Course	3
First Year Seminar	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 1	4	General Education Course	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	World Language Level 2	4
General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3	General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3
16		16	

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T [‡]	3	PHIL 12 or 10 [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
General Education Course	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 3	4	General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3	BA Knowledge Domain Course	3
16		15	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	PHIL 401, 402, 409, 413, 424, or 435 [*]	3
General Education Course	3	ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	General Education Course	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
15		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
4xx level in Humanities [*]	3	Elective	3
BA Other Cultures	3	Elective	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5
General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5		
16.5		13.5	

Total Credits 123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

Advising Note:

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Philosophy of Science and Mathematics Option: Philosophy, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H [†]	3	1-100 level PHIL Course	3
First Year Seminar	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 1	4	General Education Course	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	World Language Level 2	4
General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3	General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3
16		16	

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T [‡]	3	PHIL 12 [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
General Education Course	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 3	4	General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3	BA Knowledge Domain Course	3
16		15	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	PHIL 407, 410, 425W, 426W, or 427 [*]	3
General Education Course	3	ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	General Education Course	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
15		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
4xx level in Mathematics and Science [*]	3	Elective	3
BA Other Cultures	3	Elective	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5

General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5	
16.5		13.5

Total Credits 123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

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Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

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GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures.

See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

Advising Note:

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Social Sciences Option: Philosophy, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H [†]	3	1-100 level PHIL Course	3
First Year Seminar	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 1	4	General Education Course	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	World Language Level 2	4
General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3	General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3
16		16	

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T [‡]	3	PHIL 12 [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
General Education Course	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 3	4	General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3	BA Knowledge Domain Course	3
16		15	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	PHIL 401, 408W, 416, 425W, or 438 [*]	3
General Education Course	3	ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	General Education Course	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
15		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
4xx level in Social Sciences [*]	3	Elective	3
BA Other Cultures	3	Elective	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	General Education Health and Wellness	1.5
General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5		
16.5		13.5	

Total Credits 123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

Advising Note:

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Professional Studies Option: Philosophy, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If report**). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H [†]	3	1-100 level PHIL Course	3
First Year Seminar	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 1	4	General Education Course	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	World Language Level 2	4
General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3	General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3
16		16	

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T [‡]	3	PHIL 12 or 10 [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
General Education Course	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 3	4	General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3	BA Knowledge Domain Course	3
16		15	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	PHIL 405, 406, 418, 432, 433, or 435 [*]	3
General Education Course	3	ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	General Education Course	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
15		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	Elective	3
BA Other Cultures	3	Elective	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	General Education Health and Wellness	1.5
General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5		
16.5		13.5	

Total Credits 123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

Advising Note:

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Justice, Law, and Values Option: Philosophy, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H [†]	3	PHIL 105 [*]	3
First Year Seminar	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 1	4	General Education Course	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	World Language Level 2	4
General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3	General Education Quantification Course [‡]	3
16		16	

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T [‡]	3	PHIL 12 or 10 [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3	Concentration Course [*]	3
General Education Course	3	General Education Course	3
World Language Level 3	4	General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3	BA Knowledge Domain Course	3
16		15	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	PHIL 403, 405, 406, 407, 408W, 418, 425W, 432, 433, or 438 [*]	3
General Education Course	3	ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	General Education Course	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
15		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3	AFAM 409, 465, CAS 321, COMM 402, HIST 449, HIST 450, LST 370, PLSC 403, PLSC 412, PLSC 431, PLSC 432, PLSC 471, PLSC 472, PLSC 473, PLSC 474, WMNST 423, or WMNST 453 [*]	3
BA Other Cultures	3	Elective	3
BA Knowledge Domain Course	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3

General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5 General Education Health and Wellness	1.5
AFAM 409, 465, CAS 321, COMM 402, HIST 449, HIST 450, LST 370, PLSC 403, PLSC 412, PLSC 431, PLSC 432, PLSC 471, PLSC 472, PLSC 473, PLSC 474, WMNST 423, or WMNST 453 [*]	3	
16.5		13.5

Total Credits 123

- * Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
- ‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
- # Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
- † Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

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GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

Advising Note:

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being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Career Paths

Students in the Philosophy major may choose to pursue one of several areas of concentration, including the history of philosophy, humanities and arts, natural sciences and mathematics, social sciences, professional studies, or justice, law and values. Each option is designed to prepare students to reach career or educational goals in its associated field.

Careers

Philosophy students learn the kinds of critical, interpretive, analytical, and argumentative skills highly prized by employers in a wide variety of fields, including publishing, non-profit work, consulting, information technology, law, business, education, journalism, medicine, and public service.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM (<http://philosophy.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Philosophy students score consistently higher than other majors on LSAT, MCAT, and GMAT exams. The study of philosophy provides students with an outstanding preparation for law school, medical school, and other advanced degrees. For those students interested in pursuing graduate work in philosophy, our department has a strong record of placing its graduates into top-notch doctoral programs.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<http://philosophy.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/>)

Professional Resources

- American Philosophical Association (<https://www.apaonline.org/>)
- Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (<http://www.spep.org/about/mission/>)

Contact

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