PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus  
**End Campus:** University Park

## Degree Requirements

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Classic Requirement: Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Critical Thinking: Critical Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic: Symbolic Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>American Philosophy: American Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in European Philosophy: Seminar in European Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Aesthetics: Seminar in Aesthetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy of Literature: Seminar in Philosophy of Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy of Religion: Seminar in Philosophy of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Science and Religion: Science and Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

### Humanities and Arts Option (21 credits)

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
PHIL 10 | Critical Thinking | 3
or PHIL 12 | Symbolic Logic | 3

Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level | 6
Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>American Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in European Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Aesthetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy of Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Science and Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

Select 3 credits at the 400 level in a related arts or humanities discipline, in consultation with adviser

### Philosophy of Science and Mathematics Option (21 credits)

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
PHIL 12 | Symbolic Logic | 3

**Additional Courses**

**Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level | 6
Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy of Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy of Mind</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas**

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

Select 3 additional credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser

Select 3 credits at the 400 level in a mathematics or natural science discipline, in consultation with adviser

### Social Sciences Option (21 credits)

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
PHIL 12 | Symbolic Logic | 3

**Additional Courses**

**Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level | 6
Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Modern Philosophy: 1600-1800</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>Nineteenth Century Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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
Prescribed Courses
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
PHIL 105 Philosophy of Law 3

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

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.