**PHILOSOPHY, B.S.**

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

**Program Description**

The Philosophy B.S. option is intended for students who wish to study philosophy as part of a multiple major program with other B.S. degree programs, especially those connected to the life sciences, the physical sciences, mathematics, engineering, or technology. It allows such students to study the philosophical, critical, and ethical dimensions of pure and applied sciences, including the areas of philosophy foundational for such study. The focus is, then, on analytic and normative reasoning connected to reasoning and explanation; theory and practice; the nature and limits of human understanding; and the structure and knowability of the world it seeks to understand.

**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.

**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 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 Science degree in Philosophy, a minimum of 120 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>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).

**Code** | **Title**                      | **Credits**  
---|---|---  
**Prescribed Courses**  
PHIL 12 | Symbolic Logic | 3  
**Additional Courses**  
Select 9 credits in Philosophical Foundations of Science: | |  
PHIL 11 | Science and Truth |  
PHIL 13 | Nature and Environment |  
PHIL 110 | Philosophy of Science |  
PHIL 125 | Theories of Knowledge |  
or PHIL 125W | Theories of Knowledge |  
PHIL 126 | Metaphysics |  
or PHIL 126W | Metaphysics |  
PHIL 127 | Philosophy of Mind |  
PHIL 129 | Philosophy of Language |  
Select 6 credits in Ethics and Science: | |  
PHIL 107 | Philosophy of Technology |  
PHIL 118 | Environmental Philosophy |  
PHIL 132 | Bioethics |  
PHIL 133N | Ethics of Climate Change |  
PHIL 134 | Food, Values, and Health |  
Select 6 credits in Advanced Topics: | |  
PHIL 403 | Seminar in Environmental Ethics |  
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 |  
PHIL 432 | Medical and Health Care Ethics |  
Select 6 credits in Formal Reasoning: | |  
CMPSC 111 | Logic for Computer Science |  
CMPSC 121 | Introduction to Programming Techniques |  
CMPSC 131 | Programming and Computation I: Fundamentals |  
CMPSC 360 | Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science |  
CMPSC 441 | Artificial Intelligence |  
CMPSC 442 | Artificial Intelligence |  
ECON 306 | Introduction to Econometrics |  
ECON 402 | Decision Making and Strategy in Economics |  
ECON 411 | Behavioral Economics |  
ECON 414 | |  
ECON 474 | Experimental and Behavioral Economics |  
IST 230 | Language, Logic, and Discrete Mathematics |  
IST 240 | Introduction to Computer Languages |
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). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

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).

Philosophy, B.S. 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 report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>First-Year Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Philosophy (Foundation Course)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy (Any Course)</td>
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<td>General Quantification</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Quantification</td>
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Second Year

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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Philosophy (Foundation Course)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy Ethics and Science Course</td>
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<td>Formal Reasoning Course</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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Third Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy Ethics and Science Course</td>
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<td>PHIL 12</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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Elective 3 Elective 3

Fourth Year

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<th>Spring</th>
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<td>Supporting Advanced PHIL</td>
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<td>Supporting Advanced PHIL</td>
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<td>General Health and Wellness</td>
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Total Credits 120

* 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.

Contact

University Park

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
234 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-6397
npr109@psu.edu

http://philosophy.la.psu.edu/