

Philosophy/Humanities

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

Nature of Program

The Department of Philosophy is a small, academically vibrant, student-centered, undergraduate program. Our mission is to provide an outstanding liberal arts education with all the advantages of a large research university.

Philosophy students are trained to understand and to respond both critically and creatively to philosophical problems, theories, and arguments. Philosophy students investigate fundamental questions that have puzzled human beings for ages. Philosophy deals with questions such as: What do we know and how do we know it? What is morally right and how should we live? What is the nature of the human mind and self? Is there a God and how might human beings know about God? What is the ideal form of government? What is the ultimate nature of reality?

The areas in which students receive instruction include logic, ethics, social-political philosophy, philosophy of law, theory of knowledge, philosophy of science, continental philosophy, metaphysics, history of ancient and modern philosophy, and philosophy of religion.

Because of the vigorous critical thinking students enjoy in a philosophy class, the study of philosophy provides a strong preparation for a wide range of careers including law, business, medicine, and journalism. Those who desire a career teaching philosophy in college will need the Ph.D. degree.

Philosophy is an especially strong major for students going to law school. We offer a pre-law area of emphasis within the philosophy major.

For students without any definite career plans, philosophy is an excellent major in that it provides skills essential for any career that requires clear communication, problem solving, strong writing, evaluation and/or creation of policies and procedures, comfort with complexity and disagreement, and careful and creative thinking.

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements.

Humanities

No Degree Offered

Nature of Program

The study of the humanities is the study of our effort to understand ourselves through history, literature, religion, philosophy, and fine arts. It is also the study of our effort to comprehend the masterpieces of the past and present as we seek to deepen our understanding of ourselves and our culture: what we are, why we are, and what our options for a significant life are.

Although we do not offer a major or a minor in the humanities, many students enjoy our courses as part of their General Education Foundations.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; view a list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors>) here. Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

Certificate of Global Engagement

Students in the Eberly College, regardless of their major, can earn a Certificate of Global Engagement. Completion of the Certificate demonstrates the student's knowledge of diverse cultures, as well as the ability to communicate and interact effectively with people of different cultural backgrounds. Students will be required to apply their knowledge of contemporary issues and global social contexts to their course work and their broader citizenship. For details regarding Certificate requirements, please visit the Eberly College page (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#otherdegreestext>).

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Matthew Talbert - Ph.D. (UC Riverside)
Associate Professor; Ethics, Moral Psychology, Agency

PROFESSORS

- David Cerbone - Ph.D. (U.C. Berkeley)
Continental philosophy (esp. Heidegger), Wittgenstein, History of Analytic Philosophy

- Ralph W. Clark - Ph.D. (U. Colo.)
Ethics, Business ethics, Medieval Philosophy
- Sharon Ryan - Ph.D. (U. Rochester)
Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion
- Daniel Shapiro - Ph.D. (U. Minn.)
Social and political philosophy, Ethics, Philosophy of law
- Mark Wicclair - Ph.D. (Columbia U.)
Philosophy of law, Medical ethics, Ethics

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Joseph Baltimore - Ph.D. (U. Wisconsin-Madison)
Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Philosophy of religion
- Jessica Wolfendale - Ph.D. (Monash U.)
Ethics, Military Ethics, Health Care Ethics

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Geoff Georgi - Ph.D. (U. Southern California)
Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Logic

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Theodore M. Drange
- Henry Ruf

Admission Requirements

Entering freshmen are admitted directly into the major. Students admitted from the Center for Learning, Advising, and Student Success or from another department must meet minimum standards, including a 2.0 overall GPA. However, the department is willing to work with students with a lower GPA if they have taken and done well in a PHIL course and their low GPA is the result of grades outside of humanities and social science coursework. Please contact a department adviser for details.

Benchmark Expectations

Philosophy majors must earn a grade of C- or higher in courses required for the major (PHIL 244, 248, 260, 301 or 302, 321 or 346, 480 or 496) and must possess at least a 2.0 average across their PHIL coursework. The department recommends 9 hours in PHIL in the first year in the program. All majors must meet with a Philosophy department adviser each semester. Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from the major.

Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study (p. 4)

GENERAL EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations

F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Skills		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, College B.A. requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours. For complete details on these requirements, visit the B.A. Degrees tab on the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences page (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#bachelorofartstext>).

Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in Philosophy

A degree in philosophy requires thirty hours in Philosophy, including three credits at any level, and 18 hours of work at the 300 level or above. All students wishing to obtain a degree in Philosophy must comply with the following:

- **Capstone Requirement:** The university requires the successful completion of a Capstone course.
 - Students in Philosophy usually take PHIL 480.
 - In some instances, with special permission from the department, students can write a thesis to fulfill the Capstone requirements. These students must take PHIL 496, and should make arrangements with a faculty member during the semester preceding the one in which they plan to write the thesis. Only students who have a 3.7 average or higher in Philosophy courses are eligible to write the senior thesis. Ability to enroll in PHIL 496 will depend upon the availability of a faculty member who is able to work with the student, the student's level of preparation for successful completion of a thesis, and the student's submission of an appropriate proposal for the thesis.
- **Writing and Communication Skills Requirement:** The Philosophy Bachelor of Arts is a **SpeakWrite Certified Program™**. SpeakWrite Certified programs incorporate and develop students' written, verbal, visual, and mediated communication skills across the curriculum.
- **Calculation of the GPA in the Major:** A grade of C- or higher must be earned in required courses, and majors must possess at least a 2.0 average in all Philosophy courses in order to graduate. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.
- **Pre-Law Area of Emphasis:** The course of study for the Pre-Law Area of Emphasis includes all of the requirements for the Philosophy major as well as PHIL 130, PHIL 323, and PHIL 325 as part of their PHIL electives.
- **Benchmark Expectations:** For details, go to the Philosophy admissions tab (p. 2).

Curriculum Requirements

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS	25
WVUE 191 First Year Seminar	
GEF Requirements (number of credit hours may vary depending on overlap):	
ECAS B.A. REQUIREMENTS	12
Foreign Languages	
Fine Arts Requirement	
Global Studies & Diversity Requirement	
DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	
Basic Core Requirements:	9
PHIL 244 History of Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 248 History of Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 260 Introduction to Symbolic Logic	
Philosophy Upper-Division Courses	6
Select one of the following:	
PHIL 301 Metaphysics	
PHIL 302 Theory of Knowledge	
Select one of the following:	
PHIL 321 Ethical Theory	
PHIL 346 History of Ethics	
Philosophy Upper-Division Electives:	9
Select 9 hours at the 300 level or above in PHIL	
Philosophy General Elective	3

Any PHIL course at the 100-level or above

Capstone Experience:	3
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Select one of the following:

PHIL 480	Capstone Seminar
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PHIL 496	Senior Thesis
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General Electives	53
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Number of electives may vary depending on overlap

Total Hours	120
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Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
WVUE 191	1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
GEF 2	3 GEF 2	3
PHIL 244 (GEF 5)	3 PHIL 260 (GEF 8)	3
Foreign Language 101	3 Foreign Language 102	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	2	
15		15

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3 Foreign Language 204	3
GEF 3	3 ECAS Global Studies & Diversity Requirement (GEF 7)	3
GEF 4	3 PHIL 301 (GEF 8)	3
Foreign Language 203	3 General Elective	3
PHIL 248 (GEF 8)	3 General Elective	3
15		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
ECAS Fine Arts Requirement (GEF 6)	3 PHIL Upper Division Elective 2	3
PHIL Ethics Course	3 PHIL Upper Division Elective 3	3
PHIL General Elective	3 General elective	3
PHIL Upper Division Elective 1	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
General Elective	3 PHIL 480	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
15		15

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Goals

PHILOSOPHY

Upon successful completion of the B.A. degree, **Philosophy** majors will be able to:

1. Clearly articulate philosophical problems and theories.
2. Demonstrate a deep understanding of major ideas in the history of philosophy and in contemporary philosophy.
3. Read complex philosophical texts.

4. Write clearly and logically.
5. Carefully analyze arguments.
6. Think carefully, logically, and creatively about philosophy.
7. Speak carefully, logically, and creatively about philosophy.
8. Think, write, and speak carefully, logically, and creatively about complex ideas and issues.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR

MINOR CODE - U025

The Philosophy minor is designed to acquaint students with a broad range of philosophical topics and skills, and to introduce them to the fundamental issues in philosophy. The minor consists of fifteen hours in Philosophy, with at least nine hours at the upper level (300 level or above). An average of at least 2.0 in courses counted toward the minor is required.