

PHILOSOPHY, BA

Contact

Director of Undergraduate Studies
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Faculty

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Description

Using reason and argument, philosophers seek to answer the most fundamental of questions: What am I? What can I know? What must I do? Because the study of philosophy so effectively sharpens and extends the mind, many students find it to be the ideal companion to other courses of study.

The philosophy curriculum has two principal divisions. The first division consists of studies that are central to philosophy proper. There are four core areas: ethics, logic, metaphysics and the theory of knowledge, and the history of philosophy. The second division includes courses devoted to the philosophical examination of other areas of inquiry and culture, such as mathematics, the natural and social sciences, language, politics and the law, the arts, history, education, and religion.

Students particularly interested in political philosophy should see the program description under that heading here (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-philosophy-ba/>).

Students particularly interested in logic should see the description of the logic concentration, included under "Interdisciplinary Minors" in this section of the catalog.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explain core philosophical concepts and theories and their historical development
2. Critically evaluate philosophical theories and arguments
3. Write clearly and concisely, and organize their writing effectively
4. Conduct independent research on a philosophical topic by finding, assessing, and employing relevant literature

Major Requirements

Students seeking a BA in philosophy are required to complete at least 30 credit hours in philosophy, at least 24 credits of which are numbered 300 or above. In order for a course to count towards a student's major program, the student must receive a grade of C or better in the course. Each student must fulfill the following requirements:

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--|------------------------------------|---------|
| PHI 251 | Logic | 3 |
| PHI 401 | Seminar for Philosophy Majors | 3 |
| Select at least two of the following courses in the history of philosophy: | | 6 |
| PHI 307 | Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy | |

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| PHI 308 | Classical Islamic Philosophy |
| PHI 311 | The Rationalists |
| PHI 313 | British Philosophy |
| PHI 317 | Political Philosophy: The Social Contract Tradition and its Critics |
| PHI 391 | History of Ethics |
| PHI 418 | Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche |
| PHI 510 | Topics in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy |

Note:

*Other appropriate courses as approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies

Metaphysics, Epistemology, Mind, Language, and Logic: At least one of the following:

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---------|---|---------|
| PHI 321 | Twentieth Century Theories of Knowledge, Reality, and Meaning | 3 |
| PHI 373 | Introduction to the Philosophy of Science | 3 |
| PHI 375 | Philosophy of Biology: What Can Evolution Explain? | 3 |
| PHI 376 | Philosophy of Mind | 3 |
| PHI 377 | Philosophy of Psychology | 3 |
| PHI 378 | Minds and Machines | 3 |
| PHI 381 | Metaphysics | 3 |
| PHI 383 | Free Will | 3 |
| PHI 385 | Personal Identity | 3 |
| PHI 387 | Epistemology | 3 |
| PHI 451 | Logic and Language | 3 |
| PHI 551 | Mathematical Logic | 3 |
| PHI 552 | Modal Logic | 3 |
| PHI 555 | Philosophy of Mathematics | 3 |
| PHI 565 | Philosophy of Language | 3 |
| PHI 573 | Philosophy of Physical Science | 3 |
| PHI 575 | Philosophy of Social Science | 3 |
| PHI 576 | Philosophy of Mind | 3 |

Note:

*Other appropriate course approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies

Value Theory: At least one of the following:

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---------|---|---------|
| PHI 317 | Political Philosophy: The Social Contract Tradition and its Critics | 3 |
| PHI 391 | History of Ethics | 3 |
| PHI 393 | Contemporary Ethics | 3 |
| PHI 394 | Environmental Ethics | 3 |
| PHI 395 | Philosophy of Art | 3 |
| PHI 396 | Stem Cells and Society | 3 |
| PHI 397 | Philosophy of Law | 3 |
| PHI 398 | Medical Ethics | 3 |
| PHI 417 | Contemporary Political Philosophy | 3 |
| PHI 493 | Contemporary Ethical Issues | 3 |
| PHI 593 | Ethics and the Health professions | 3 |

Note:

*Other appropriate course approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies

College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

For all Arts and Sciences|Maxwell students, successful completion of a bachelor's degree in this major requires a minimum of 120 credits, 96 of which must be Arts and Sciences|Maxwell credits, completion of the Liberal Arts Core (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#text>) requirements, and the requirements for this major (30 credits) that are listed above.

Dual Enrollments:

Students dually enrolled in **Newhouse*** and Arts and Sciences|Maxwell will complete a minimum of 122 credits, with at least 90 credits in Arts and Sciences|Maxwell coursework and an Arts and Sciences|Maxwell major.

*Students dually enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences|Maxwell as first year students must complete the Liberal Arts Core (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#text>). Students who transfer to the dual program after their first year as singly enrolled students in the Newhouse School will satisfy general requirements for the dual degree program by completing the Newhouse Core Requirements.

Undergraduate University Requirements

The following requirements and experiences apply to all Syracuse University Undergraduate matriculated degree programs.

- IDEA Course Requirement (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/idea-course-requirement/>)
- First Year Seminar (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/courses/fys/>)