

# PHILOSOPHY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (745)

## Program Coordinator

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Philosophy, thought Socrates, begins with the recognition that an unexamined life is not worth living. Accordingly, those who study philosophy question how to understand ourselves and our relationships to other persons, to society, to nature, to the universe, and, for some, to God.

Philosophy develops our ability to challenge the obvious, trains us to analyze and synthesize ideas, and shows us both how to defend and how to criticize normative claims about actions, policies, and ways of life. By carefully examining and discussing both traditional and contemporary works, it cultivates habits of honest reflection, careful reasoning, and clear thinking.

Philosophy majors can choose one of two tracks (both require 31 credit hours):

1. the *philosophy* track, for a deeper study of foundational questions, everyday and eternal, that we must face in order to live well and succeed in our careers, or
2. the *philosophy, politics, and policy* track, for a deeper study of philosophy as it applies to decision-making in politics and social policy.

## Concentration(s)

- General (No concentration)
- Philosophy, Politics, and Policy (PHLP)

## Program Requirements (31 hours)

A baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of 120 unduplicated semester hours. More information can be found at [www.wku.edu/registrar/degree\\_certification.php](http://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php). ([https://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree\\_certification.php](https://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php))

Students who began WKU in the Fall 2014 and thereafter should review the Colonnade requirements located at: <https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/colonnaderequirements.php>. (<https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/colonnaderequirements.php>)

The major in philosophy requires a minimum of 31 semester hours and leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree. At least 18 hours must be in courses numbered 300 or above. A minor or second major is required.

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1. the *philosophy* track, for a deeper study of foundational questions, everyday and eternal, that we must face in order to live well and succeed in our careers, or
2. the *philosophy, politics, and policy* track, for a deeper study of philosophy as it applies to decision-making in politics and social policy.

## Philosophy Track (31 hours)

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Logic, Epistemology, and Metaphysics</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 214	Logic, Argument, and Practical Reasoning	
PHIL 215	Symbolic Logic	
PHIL 315	Philosophy of Religion	
PHIL 330	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 332	Philosophy of Mind: Minds and Machines	
PHIL 334	Philosophy of Language	
PHIL 404	Metaphysics and Epistemology	
PHIL 415	Advanced Logic	
<b>History of Philosophy</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 331	Analytic Philosophy	
PHIL 341	Plato and Aristotle	
PHIL 342	Skeptics, Stoics, and Epicureans	
PHIL 343	Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 344	Early Modern Moral Philosophy	
PHIL 345	Descartes and Hume	
PHIL 346	Kant and Idealism	
PHIL 347	Leibniz and Locke	
PHIL 348	20th Century Philosophy	
PHIL 406	Existentialism	
PHIL 440	Readings in Ancient or Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 450	Readings in Modern or Contemporary Philosophy	
PS 330	Introduction to Political Theory	
<b>Ethics and Values</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 202	Racial Justice	
PHIL 207	Philosophy and Popular Culture	
PHIL 208	Philosophy of Public Space; Reason, Action & Violence	
PHIL 211	Why Are Bad People Bad?	
PHIL 212	Philosophy and Gender Theory	
PHIL 305	Aesthetics	
PHIL 322	Biomedical Ethics	
PHIL 323	Social Ethics	
PHIL 324	War and Peace	
PHIL 333	Marx and Critical Theory	
PHIL 344	Early Modern Moral Philosophy	
PHIL 350	Ethical Theory	
PHIL 406	Existentialism	
PHIL 426	Philosophy and Old Age	
PHIL 427	Philosophy of Law	
<b>Senior Seminar</b>		
PHIL 496	Senior Seminar	1
<b>Electives</b>		

Select four of the following:	12
Any philosophy (PHIL) course that is not already counting towards one of the above categories.	
RELS 242      The Meaning of Life; Atheism to Zen	
RELS 317      Confucianism	
RELS 318      Daoism	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>31</b>

## Philosophy, Politics, and Policy Track (31 hours)

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Logic, Epistemology, and Metaphysics</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 214	Logic, Argument, and Practical Reasoning	
PHIL 215	Symbolic Logic	
PHIL 315	Philosophy of Religion	
PHIL 330	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 332	Philosophy of Mind: Minds and Machines	
PHIL 334	Philosophy of Language	
PHIL 404	Metaphysics and Epistemology	
PHIL 415	Advanced Logic	

### History of Philosophy

Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 331	Analytic Philosophy	
PHIL 341	Plato and Aristotle	
PHIL 342	Skeptics, Stoics, and Epicureans	
PHIL 343	Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 344	Early Modern Moral Philosophy	
PHIL 345	Descartes and Hume	
PHIL 346	Kant and Idealism	
PHIL 347	Leibniz and Locke	
PHIL 348	20th Century Philosophy	
PHIL 406	Existentialism	
PHIL 440	Readings in Ancient or Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 450	Readings in Modern or Contemporary Philosophy	
PS 330	Introduction to Political Theory	

### Ethics and Values

Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 202	Racial Justice	
PHIL 207	Philosophy and Popular Culture	
PHIL 208	Philosophy of Public Space; Reason, Action & Violence	
PHIL 211	Why Are Bad People Bad?	
PHIL 212	Philosophy and Gender Theory	
PHIL 305	Aesthetics	
PHIL 322	Biomedical Ethics	
PHIL 323	Social Ethics	
PHIL 324	War and Peace	
PHIL 333	Marx and Critical Theory	

PHIL 344	Early Modern Moral Philosophy	
PHIL 350	Ethical Theory	
PHIL 406	Existentialism	
PHIL 426	Philosophy and Old Age	
PHIL 427	Philosophy of Law	

### Senior Seminar

PHIL 496	Senior Seminar	1
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### Electives

Select at least two philosophy (PHIL) courses and at least two political science (PS) courses from the following:		12
Any philosophy course that is not already counting towards one of the above categories		
PS 201	Concepts of Political Science	
PS 311	Public Policy	
PS 316	The Legislative Process	
PS 326	Constitutional Law	
PS 327	Civil Liberties	
PS 328	Criminal Justice Procedures	
PS 330	Introduction to Political Theory	
PS 338	Government and Ethics	
PS 340	Principles of Public Administration	
Any graduate political science (PS) course		

<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>31</b>
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## Honors in the Philosophy Major

An honors option is available for ambitious and high-achieving students seeking additional opportunities for intensive philosophical investigation. This may be pursued through honors-enriched versions of any philosophy course, and by writing a formal honors thesis in addition to the 31-hour program requirement. More details about an honors degree in philosophy can be obtained by contacting the department chair or any philosophy faculty member.

## Finish in Four Plan

### First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
COMM 145 or ENG 100		3 ENG 100 or COMM 145	3
HIST 101 or HIST 102		3 MATH 109 (or higher)	3
Colonnade: Natural & Physical Sciences		3 Colonnade: Natural & Physical Sciences with lab	3-4
Philosophy: Logic, Epistemology, and Metaphysics Course		3 Philosophy: Logic, Epistemology, and Metaphysics Course	3
PHIL 101, PHIL 102, or PHIL 103		3 Colonnade: Social & Behavioral Science	3
<b>15</b>		<b>15-16</b>	

### Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
RELS 200 or ENG 200		3 ENG 300	3
Philosophy: Ethics and Values Course		3 Colonnade: Connections (Social & Cultural)	3
Philosophy: History of Philosophy Course		3 Philosophy: History of Philosophy Course	3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 Philosophy: Ethics and Values Course	3

2nd Major/Minor Course		3 2nd Major/Minor Course		3
		15	15	
Third Year				
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	
Philosophy: Elective Course		3 Philosophy: Elective Course		3
Colonnade: Connections (Systems)		3 2nd Major/Minor Course		3
General Elective		3 Colonnade: Connections (Local to Global)		3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 General Elective		3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 PHIL 496		3
		15	15	
Fourth Year				
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	
Philosophy: Elective Course		3 2nd Major/Minor Course		3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 General Elective		3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 General Elective		3
General Elective		3 General Elective		3
General Elective		3 General Elective		3
		15	15	
Total Hours 120-121				