PHILOSOPHY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy requires a minimum of 120 credits, with at least 30 of those credits in philosophy. Fifteen of these credits must be selected from upper-level philosophy courses.

Majors intending to pursue graduate studies in philosophy are advised to choose the curriculum outlined below.

Student learning outcomes

Philosophy core outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a good knowledge of and facility with the methods and concepts of modern, analytic philosophy
2. Demonstrate a good knowledge of the current state of academic discussion of some of the central philosophical topics
3. Demonstrate some knowledge of the history of philosophy, including both major themes and movements and some specific figures and systems
4. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and systemically about philosophical problems, both abstract and practical, and to write clearly and cogently about them
5. Demonstrate the ability to construct and analyze arguments clearly and cogently, independently of their subject matter

Degree requirements for Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General education (<a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a>)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 12-13 credits from general education foundations and 17-18 credits from areas of inquiry.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major requirements

- Major core requirements
  - PHIL 222 Logic
  - PHIL 490 Seminar in Philosophy

- Additional major requirements
  - PHIL 103 Ancient Greek and Medieval Western Philosophy
  - PHIL 104 Modern Western Philosophy

Select three of the following with at least one course each from Group A and Group B.

Group A

- PHIL 320 Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 327 Normative Ethics
- PHIL 328 Metaethics
- PHIL 335 Social and Political Philosophy

Group B

- PHIL 300 Philosophical Concepts
- PHIL 301 Metaphysics
- PHIL 302 Epistemology

PHIL 303 Philosophy of Language
PHIL 304 Philosophy of Mind

Group C

- PHIL 391 Topics in Philosophy

- Major electives
- PHIL electives (any level) 6
- PHIL elective (300 level or higher) 3

Ancillary requirements

- HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society 1
- PHIL 201 Introduction to Ethics 3
  - or PHIL 211 History of Ethics
  - or PHIL 212 Ethics and Applications
  - or PHIL 213 Ethics and Health Care
  - or PHIL 214 Ethics and Business

- Experiential fine arts 1-3
- Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement) 0-6

Open electives

Select any course. 47-55

Total Hours 120

PHIL 201 satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and AOI for diversities in the human experience. Students who chose this course will take additional electives to fulfill degree requirements.

Course offered by the School of the Arts

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Freshman year

Fall semester

- UNIV 101 Introduction to the University 1
- UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations) 3
- Play course video for Focused Inquiry I

Experiential fine arts 1-3

General education course (select AOI for global perspectives) 3

General education course (select quantitative foundations) 3-4

Open elective 3

Term Hours 14-17

Spring semester

- HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society 1
**Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)**

**UNIV 112**  
Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  
3

**Play course video for Focused Inquiry II**

**Focused education course (select AOI for creativity, innovation and aesthetic inquiry)**  
3

**Focused education course (select AOI for scientific and logical reasoning)**  
3

**Open electives**  
6

**Term Hours:**  
16

### Sophomore year

#### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 103</td>
<td>Ancient Greek and Medieval Western Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 201 or PHIL 211 or PHIL 212 or PHIL 213 or PHIL 214</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics or History of Ethics or Ethics and Applications or Ethics and Health Care or Ethics and Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 200</td>
<td>Inquiry and the Craft of Argument (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language 101</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open elective (or select general education course that satisfies AOI for diversities in the human experience if PHIL 201 was not selected above)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:**  
15

#### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 222</td>
<td>Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language 102</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:**  
15

### Junior year

#### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 104</td>
<td>Modern Western Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 300 or PHIL 301 or PHIL 302 or PHIL 303 or PHIL 304</td>
<td>Philosophical Concepts or Metaphysics or Philosophy of Language or Philosophy of Mind or Philosophy of Mind</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:**  
15

#### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 320</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law or Normative Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:**  
15

### Senior year

#### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 301 or PHIL 302 or PHIL 303 or PHIL 320 or PHIL 327 or PHIL 328 or PHIL 335 or PHIL 391</td>
<td>Metaphysics or Epistemology or Philosophy of Language or Philosophy of Mind or Philosophy of Law or Normative Ethics or Metaethics or Social and Political Philosophy or Topics in Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL elective (300-level or higher)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:**  
15

#### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 490</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:**  
15

**Total Hours:**  
120-123

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1. PHIL 201 satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and AOI for diversities in the human experience. Students who chose this course will take additional electives to fulfill degree requirements.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.