PHILOSOPHY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF AI

The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a concentration in ethics and philosophy of AI 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.

Students who are interested in the philosophy of technology, the philosophy of cognitive science, or ethical questions concerning the use of artificial intelligence (and who may wish to pursue graduate work involving AI or AI governance) will probably want to choose the ethics and philosophy of AI concentration.

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 systematically 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

Ethics and philosophy of AI concentration-specific outcomes

1. Demonstrate the ability to describe and analyze ethically relevant features of a variety of different applications of artificial intelligence
2. Demonstrate the ability to clearly present and critically analyze arguments about the relationships between artificial intelligence, morality, the human mind and cognition

Degree requirements for Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in ethics and philosophy of AI

Course	Title	Hours
General education (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/ undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an advisor.		30
Major core requirements		
PHIL 103	Ancient Greek and Medieval Western Philosophy	3
PHIL 104	Modern Western Philosophy	3
PHIL 222	Logic	3
PHIL 490	Seminar in Philosophy	3
Additional requirements		
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
PHIL 327	Normative Ethics	3
or PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law	
or PHIL 328	Metaethics	
or PHIL 335	Social and Political Philosophy	
Select two of the following courses:		6
PHIL 300	Philosophical Concepts	
PHIL 301	Metaphysics	
PHIL 302	Epistemology	
PHIL 303	Philosophy of Language	
PHIL 304	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 331	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 333	Philosophy of Medicine	
Experiential fine arts [1]		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-6
Concentration requirements		
PHIL 202	Ethics of Artificial Intelligence	3
PHIL 332	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	3
Select two non-PHIL courses from the table below.		6
Electives		
Open electives (select any course)		47-55
Total Hours		**120**

[1]

Course offered by the School of the Arts.

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

Non-PHIL course options for concentration requirements (choose two)

Course	Title	Hours
BUSN 320	AI in Business	3
CMSC 225	Essentials of Artificial Intelligence	3
ENGR 125	Practical Artificial Intelligence	3
HUMS 392	Topics in AI	3
INFO 292	Data Preparation for AI	3
MASC 311	AI in Mass Media	3
MATH 170	The Language of Artificial Intelligence	3
MATH 370	Mathematical Foundations for Artificial Intelligence	3

Other appropriate courses approved by the Department of Philosophy

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.

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

Freshman year

Fall semester

		Hours
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University	1
UNIV 111 Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communicatio	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Experiential fine arts		1-3
General education course		3
General education course		3
Open elective		3
	Term Hours:	**14-16**

Spring semester

HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
General education course		3
General education course		3
Open electives		6
	Term Hours:	**16**

Sophomore year

Fall semester

PHIL 103 or PHIL 104	Ancient Greek and Medieval Western Philosophy or Modern Western Philosophy	3
PHIL 202	Ethics of Artificial Intelligence ((satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and AOI for scientific and logical reasoning))	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Foreign language 101		3
General education course		3
	Term Hours:	**15**

Spring semester

PHIL 104 or PHIL 103	Modern Western Philosophy or Ancient Greek and Medieval Western Philosophy	3
PHIL 222	Logic	3
Foreign language 102		3
General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)		3
General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)		3
	Term Hours:	**15**

Junior year

Fall semester

PHIL 332	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	3
Non-PHIL course (from list)		3
Open electives		9
	Term Hours:	**15**

Spring semester

PHIL 327 or PHIL 320 or PHIL 328 or PHIL 335	Normative Ethics or Philosophy of Law or Metaethics or Social and Political Philosophy	3
PHIL 304 or PHIL 300 or PHIL 301 or PHIL 302 or PHIL 303 or PHIL 331	Philosophy of Mind or Philosophical Concepts or Metaphysics or Epistemology or Philosophy of Language or Philosophy of Science	3
Open electives		9
	Term Hours:	**15**

Senior year

Fall semester

PHIL 331 or PHIL 300 or PHIL 301 or PHIL 302 or PHIL 303 or PHIL 304	Philosophy of Science or Philosophical Concepts or Metaphysics or Epistemology or Philosophy of Language or Philosophy of Mind	3
Non-PHIL course (from list)		3
Open electives		9
	Term Hours:	**15**

Spring semester

PHIL 490	Seminar in Philosophy	3
Open electives		12
	Term Hours:	**15**
	Total Hours:	**120-122**

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