

# PHILOSOPHY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

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.

Students whose main interests in philosophy are ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of law or public policy (and who may wish to pursue graduate work in law, political science, economics and related areas) will probably want to choose the ethics and public policy 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 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

### Ethics and public policy concentration-specific outcomes

1. Demonstrate a good knowledge of public policy in areas such as politics, economics and law
2. Demonstrate a good knowledge of philosophical questions about public policy in areas such as politics, economics and law

## Degree requirements for Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in ethics and public policy

Course	Title	Hours
<b>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>)</b>		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
<b>Major requirements</b>		
• Major core requirements		
PHIL 103	History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	3
PHIL 104	History of Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 222	Logic	3

PHIL 490	Seminar in Philosophy	3
• Additional major requirements		
PHIL 300	Philosophical Concepts	3
or PHIL 301	Metaphysics	
or PHIL 302	Epistemology	
or PHIL 303	Philosophy of Language	
or PHIL 304	Philosophy of Mind	
or PHIL 332	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 327	Normative Ethics	
PHIL 328	Metaethics	
PHIL 335	Social and Political Philosophy	
• Major electives		
PHIL elective (any level)		3
Non-PHIL courses (from list below)		6
<b>Ancillary requirements</b>		
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
PHIL 201	Introduction to Ethics <sup>1</sup>	3
or PHIL 202	Ethics of Artificial Intelligence	
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 <sup>2</sup>		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-6
<b>Open electives</b>		
Select any course.		47-55
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>120</b>

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PHIL 201 satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and AOI for diversities in the human experience; PHIL 202 satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and AOI for scientific and logical reasoning. Students who chose this course will take additional electives to fulfill degree requirements.

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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 major requirements (choose two)

Course	Title	Hours
CRJS 324	Courts and Sentencing	3
CRJS 355	Criminological Theory	3
ECON 301	Microeconomic Theory	3
ECON 302	Macroeconomic Theory	3
ECON 419	History of Economic Thought	3
POLI 310	Public Policy	3
POLI 314	U.S. Constitutional Law: Structure of Government	3

POLI 315	Courts and Politics	3
SOCY 302	Contemporary Social Problems	3
SOCY 430	Politics, Power and Ideology	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.

**Freshman year**

<b>Fall semester</b>		<b>Hours</b>
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		3
General education course		3
Open elective		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>14-16</b>

**Spring semester**

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

**Sophomore year**

**Fall semester**

PHIL 103	History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	3
or		
PHIL 104	or History of Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 201	Introduction to Ethics <sup>1</sup>	3
or	or Ethics of Artificial Intelligence <sup>1</sup>	
PHIL 202	or History of Ethics <sup>1</sup>	
or	or Ethics and Applications <sup>1</sup>	
PHIL 211	or Ethics and Health Care <sup>1</sup>	
or	or Ethics and Business <sup>1</sup>	
PHIL 212		
or		
PHIL 213		
or		
PHIL 214		
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Foreign language 101		3
Open elective (or select general education course if PHIL 201 was not selected above)		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

PHIL 104	History of Modern Philosophy	3
or	or History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 103		
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
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Junior year**

**Fall semester**

PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law	3
or	or Normative Ethics	
PHIL 327	or Metaethics	
or	or Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 328		
or		
PHIL 335		
Non-PHIL course (from list)		3
Open electives		9
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law	3
or	or Normative Ethics	
PHIL 327	or Metaethics	
or	or Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 328		
or		
PHIL 335		
Non-PHIL course (from list)		3
Open electives		9
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Senior year**

**Fall semester**

PHIL 300	Philosophical Concepts	3
or	or Metaphysics	
PHIL 301	or Epistemology	
or	or Philosophy of Language	
PHIL 302	or Philosophy of Mind	
or	or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	
PHIL 303		
or		
PHIL 304		
or		
PHIL 332		
PHIL elective		3
Open electives		9
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

PHIL 490	Seminar in Philosophy	3
Open electives		12
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Hours:</b>		<b>120-122</b>

1

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