

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

The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a concentration in philosophy and law is an interdisciplinary curriculum requiring a minimum of 120 credits, with at least 30 of those credits in the major area, at least half of which must be upper-level.

Students whose main interests are philosophy of law and the relation between philosophy and law (and who may wish to pursue graduate work in law and related areas) will probably want to choose the philosophy and law 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

Philosophy and law concentration-specific outcomes

1. Demonstrate a good knowledge of philosophical questions about law including but not limited to questions about the nature of law and its authority
2. Demonstrate a good knowledge of the specific workings of the law especially with respect to constitutional issues

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

Course	Title	Hours
General education (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• 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	
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law	3
PHIL 327	Normative Ethics	3
or PHIL 328	Metaethics	
or PHIL 335	Social and Political Philosophy	
Non-PHIL courses (from list below)		9
Ancillary requirements		
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
PHIL 201	Introduction to Ethics ¹	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 ²		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-6
Open electives		
Select any course.		47-55
Total Hours		120

¹

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 choose these courses 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 three)

Course	Title	Hours
CRJS 324	Courts and Sentencing	3
CRJS 355	Criminological Theory	3
ENGL 302	Legal Writing	3
FRSC 375	Forensic Evidence, Law and Criminal Procedure	3
POLI 313	U.S. Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	3
POLI 314	U.S. Constitutional Law: Structure of Government	3
POLI 315	Courts and Politics	3
POLI 316	Women and the Law	3
POLI 372	Ethics, Law and Governance	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

Fall semester		Hours
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
Term Hours:		14-16

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
Term Hours:		16

Sophomore year

Fall semester

PHIL 103 or PHIL 104	History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy or History of Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 201 or PHIL 202 or PHIL 211 or PHIL 212 or PHIL 213 or PHIL 214	Introduction to Ethics ¹ or Ethics of Artificial Intelligence ¹ or History of Ethics ¹ or Ethics and Applications ¹ or Ethics and Health Care ¹ or Ethics and Business ¹	3
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
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

PHIL 104 or PHIL 103	History of Modern Philosophy or History of Ancient and Medieval 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 320	Philosophy of Law	3
Non-PHIL course (from list)		3
Open electives		9
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

PHIL 327 or PHIL 328 or PHIL 335	Normative Ethics or Metaethics or Social and Political Philosophy	3
Non-PHIL course (from list)		3
Open electives		9
Term Hours:		15

Senior year

Fall semester

PHIL 300 or PHIL 301 or PHIL 302 or PHIL 303 or PHIL 304 or PHIL 332	Philosophical Concepts or Metaphysics or Epistemology or Philosophy of Language or Philosophy of Mind or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	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

¹

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