

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

The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a concentration in philosophy and science 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 with a strong interest in the philosophy of science and the relation between philosophy and science (and those considering graduate work in an area of science) will probably want to choose the philosophy and science 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 science concentration-specific outcomes

1. Demonstrate a good knowledge of philosophical questions about scientific inquiry including but not limited to questions about scientific explanation, the confirmation and disconfirmation of scientific theories, and what distinguishes science from non-science
2. Demonstrate a good knowledge of a particular area of science including the research methods of that area of science

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

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 331	Philosophy of Science	3
Select two of the following:		
PHIL 300	Philosophical Concepts	
PHIL 301	Metaphysics	
PHIL 302	Epistemology	
PHIL 303	Philosophy of Language	
PHIL 304	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 327	Normative Ethics	
PHIL 328	Metaethics	
PHIL 332	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	
PHIL 335	Social and Political Philosophy	

• Scientific focus area
Choose one of the scientific focus areas listed below. Each focus area consists of a three-credit course on the research methods of a scientific discipline and six upper-level credits in that discipline. 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 chose this course will take additional electives to fulfill degree requirements.

² Course offered by the School of the Arts

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

Scientific focus areas

Anthropology		
Course	Title	Hours
ANTH 302	Archaeological Theory	
or ANTH 303	Archaeological Methods and Research Design	
Select six additional upper-level credits in ANTH courses		

Bioinformatics

Course	Title	Hours
LFSC 301	Integrative Life Sciences Research	
Select six upper-level credits in BNFO courses.		

Chemistry

Course	Title	Hours
CHEM 309 or INSC 300	Quantitative Analysis Experiencing Science	
Select six additional upper-level credits in CHEM courses		

Computer science

Course	Title	Hours
CMSC 303	Introduction to the Theory of Computation	
Select six additional upper-level credits in CMSC courses		

Economics

Course	Title	Hours
ECON 300	Contemporary Economic Issues	
Select six additional upper-level credits in ECON courses		

Environmental studies

Course	Title	Hours
LFSC 301	Integrative Life Sciences Research	
Select six additional upper-level credits in ENVS courses		

Mathematical sciences

Course	Title	Hours
MATH 300	Introduction to Mathematical Reasoning	
Select six additional upper-level credits in MATH or STAT or OPER courses		

Political science

Course	Title	Hours
POLI/SOCY 320	Research Methods in Political Science	
Select six additional upper-level credits in POLI courses		

Psychology

Course	Title	Hours
PSYC 317	Experimental Methods ¹	
Select six additional upper-level credits in PSYC courses		

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This course is restricted to the majors in the relevant program.

Sociology

Course	Title	Hours
POLI/SOCY 320	Research Methods in Political Science	
Select six additional upper-level credits in SOCY courses		

Physics

Course	Title	Hours
PHYS 320 or INSC 300	Modern Physics Experiencing Science	

Select six additional upper-level credits in PHYS courses (or 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		Hours
PHIL 103 or PHIL 104	History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy or History of Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 201	Introduction to Ethics ¹	3
or	or Ethics of Artificial Intelligence ¹	
PHIL 202	or History of Ethics ¹	
or	or Ethics and Applications ¹	
PHIL 211	or Ethics and Health Care ¹	
or	or Ethics and Business ¹	
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
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

PHIL 104	History of Modern Philosophy	3
or	or History of Ancient and Medieval	
PHIL 103	Philosophy	
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 331	Philosophy of Science	3
Open electives		9
Scientific focus area upper-level course		3

Term Hours: 15

Spring 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 Law	
PHIL 303	or Normative Ethics	
or	or Metaethics	
PHIL 304	or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	
or	or Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 320		
or		
PHIL 327		
or		
PHIL 328		
or		
PHIL 332		
or		
PHIL 335		

Open electives		9
Scientific focus area research methods course		3

Term Hours: 15

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 Law	
PHIL 303	or Normative Ethics	
or	or Metaethics	
PHIL 304	or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	
or	or Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 320		
or		
PHIL 327		
or		
PHIL 328		
or		
PHIL 332		
or		
PHIL 335		

Open electives		9
Scientific focus area upper-level course		3

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

PHIL 490	Seminar in Philosophy	3
Open electives		12

Term Hours: 15

Total Hours: 120-122

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