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.)

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
General education | 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

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

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

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

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

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

Term Hours: | 14-16

Spring semester

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
HUMS 202 | Choices in a Consumer Society | 1
### Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

**UNIV 112**  
Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  
Play course video for  
Focused Inquiry II  
General education course  
General education course  
Open electives  

**Term Hours:** 16

**Sophomore year**  
**Fall semester**
- PHIL 103  
  History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy  
- PHIL 201  
  Introduction to Ethics  
  or Ethics of Artificial Intelligence  
  or History of Ethics  
  or Ethics and Applications  
  or Ethics and Health Care  
  or Ethics and Business  
- UNIV 200  
  Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  

Foreign language 101  
Open elective (or select general education course if PHIL 201 was not selected above)  

**Term Hours:** 15

**Spring semester**
- PHIL 222  
  Logic  
- Foreign language 102  
- General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)  
- General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)  
- Open elective  

**Term Hours:** 15

**Junior year**  
**Fall semester**
- PHIL 104  
  History of Modern Philosophy  
- PHIL 300  
  Philosophical Concepts  
  or Metaphysics  
  or Epistemology  
  or Philosophy of Language  
  or Philosophy of Mind  
  or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence  
- Open electives  

**Term Hours:** 9

**Spring semester**
- PHIL 320  
  Philosophy of Law  

**Term Hours:** 3

**Senior year**  
**Fall semester**
- PHIL 301  
  Metaphysics  
  or Philosophical Concepts  
  or Epistemology  
  or Philosophy of Language  
  or Philosophy of Mind  
  or Philosophy of Law  
  or Normative Ethics  
  or Metaethics  
  or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence  
  or Social and Political Philosophy  
  or Philosophy of Law  
  or Metaethics  
  or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence  
  or Social and Political Philosophy  
  or Topics in Philosophy  
- PHIL 391  
  PHIL elective (300-level or higher)  
- Open electives  

**Term Hours:** 15

**Spring semester**
- PHIL 490  
  Seminar in Philosophy  
- Open electives  

**Term Hours:** 15

**Total Hours:** 120-122

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