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 (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
Select three of the following with at least one course each from Group A and Group B. 9

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

PHIL 303 Philosophy of Language
PHIL 304 Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 332 Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

Group C
PHIL 391 Topics in Philosophy

• Major electives
  PHIL electives (any level) 6
  PHIL elective (300 level or higher) 3

Ancillary requirements
HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society 1

PHIL 201 Introduction to Ethics 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 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.

2

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
UNIV 101 Introduction to the University 1
UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I 3

Term Hours: 14-16

Spring semester
HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society 1

PHIL 303 Philosophy of Language
PHIL 304 Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 332 Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

Group C
PHIL 391 Topics in Philosophy

• Major electives
  PHIL electives (any level) 6
  PHIL elective (300 level or higher) 3

Ancillary requirements
HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society 1

PHIL 201 Introduction to Ethics 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 1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement) 0-6

Open electives
Select any course. 47-55

Total Hours 120
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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 103</td>
<td>History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| PHIL 201    | Introduction to Ethics 1 3
or PHIL 202  | or Ethics of Artificial Intelligence 1 3
or PHIL 211  | or History of Ethics 1 3
or PHIL 212  | or Ethics and Applications 1 3
or PHIL 213  | or Ethics and Health Care 1 3
or PHIL 214  | 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**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 222</td>
<td>Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign language 102</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Open elective</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Term Hours:** 15

**Junior year**

**Fall semester**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 104</td>
<td>History of Modern Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| PHIL 300    | Philosophical Concepts 3
or PHIL 301  | or Metaphysics 3
or PHIL 302  | or Epistemology 3
or PHIL 303  | or Philosophy of Language 3
or PHIL 304  | or Philosophy of Mind 3
or PHIL 305  | or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence | 3          |
| Open electives |  | 9          |

**Term Hours:** 15

**Spring semester**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 320</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
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**Senior year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term Hours</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| PHIL 301    | Metaphysics 3
or PHIL 300  | or Philosophical Concepts 3
or PHIL 302  | or Epistemology 3
or PHIL 303  | or Philosophy of Language 3
or PHIL 304  | or Philosophy of Mind 3
or PHIL 306  | or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence 3
or PHIL 327  | or Social and Political Philosophy 3
or PHIL 328  | or Normative Ethics 3
or PHIL 332  | or Metaethics 3
or PHIL 335  | or Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence 3
or PHIL 391  | or Social and Political Philosophy 3
or Open elective (300-level or higher) | 3          |
| Open electives |  | 9          |

**Term Hours:** 15

**Spring semester**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Term Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 490</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
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<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 15

**Total Hours:** 120-122

1

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