

PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

Every field and career path needs people who can think logically and communicate effectively. Students majoring in philosophy learn how to examine complex problems, analyze internal logic, question assumptions, understand other points of view, and find unique and creative solutions. Graduates with these skills are sought after in fields like law, medicine and business, as well as the arts, humanities, history and social sciences.

Our department offers the Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy with an optional undergraduate research track leading to a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction and an optional major concentration in Society, Ethics, and Law. Students in the major may also pursue the Bachelor of Arts degree with Leadership Distinction, which offers several paths for engagement beyond the classroom, such as advocacy, professional and civic engagement, internships and research opportunities.

Philosophy majors, on average, outperform other majors on the GRE, LSAT and GMAT, making it a great primary or secondary major for those pursuing a graduate or professional degree. Philosophy majors also lead the way in the pursuit of advanced degrees such as medical school, law school and business school as well as Ph.D. and master's degrees.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history and most important disciplines of philosophy.
2. Students will read philosophical texts knowledgeably and critically.
3. Students will recognize philosophical questions and grasp philosophical arguments.
4. Students will engage in philosophical discussion and will be capable of presenting philosophical ideas in class.
5. Students will write philosophical papers that require research, interpretation and argument.

Admissions

Entrance Requirements

New freshmen who meet University admissions standards are eligible for admission to degree programs offered by the college. A student who wishes to enter the College of Arts and Sciences from another college on the Columbia campus must be in good standing and have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher. A student who wishes to enter the College of Arts and Sciences from another USC campus must fulfill one of the following requirements:

1. Be in good standing, meet the admission requirements for a baccalaureate degree on the Columbia campus, and have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher.
2. Be in good standing and have completed 30 semester hours with a GPA of 2.00 or higher on a USC campus.

Some programs in the College of Arts and Sciences have special admission requirements established by the department or committee that supervises the specific degree program, for example, Cardiovascular Technology, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Economics, Environmental Science, the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. These requirements are listed in the sections of this bulletin that describe department and special degree programs.

Degree Requirements (120 hours)

Program of Study

Requirements	Credit Hours
1. Carolina Core	32-44
2. College Requirements	15-18
3. Program Requirements	34-49
4. Major Requirements	24

Founding Documents Requirement

All undergraduate students must take a 3-credit course or its equivalent with a passing grade in the subject areas of History, Political Science, or African American Studies that covers the founding documents including the United State Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation and one or more documents that are foundational to the African American Freedom struggle, and a minimum of five essays from the Federalist papers. This course may count as a requirement in any part of the program of study including the Carolina Core, the major, minor or cognate, or as a general elective. Courses that meet this requirement are listed here (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/founding-document-courses/>).

1. Carolina Core Requirements (32-44 hours)

CMW – Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written (6 hours)

must be passed with a grade of C or higher

- any CC-CMW courses (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

ARP – Analytical Reasoning and Problem Solving (6-7 hours)

- PHIL 114*
- Any CC-ARP course (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

SCI – Scientific Literacy (8 hours)

- Two 4-credit hour CC-SCI (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)laboratory science courses

GFL – Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language (0-6 hours)

Demonstration of proficiency in one foreign language equivalent to the minimal passing grade on the exit examination in the 122 course is required. Students can demonstrate this proficiency by successfully completing Phase II of the Proficiency Test or by successfully completing the 122 course, including the exit exam administered as part of that course. **The foreign languages recommended for students majoring in philosophy are French, German, Greek, and Latin.**

- CC-GFL courses (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

It is strongly recommended that students continuing the study of a foreign language begin college-level study of that language in their first semester and continue in that language until their particular foreign language requirement is completed.

GHS – Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Historical Thinking (3 hours)

- any CC-GHS course (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

GSS – Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Social Sciences (3 hours)

- any CC-GSS course (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

AIU – Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding (3 hours)

- any CC-AIU course (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

CMS – Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Spoken Component ¹ (0-3 hours)

- any overlay or stand-alone CC-CMS course (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

INF – Information Literacy ¹ (0-3 hours)

- any overlay or stand-alone CC-INF course (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

VSR – Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility ¹ (0-3 hours)

- any overlay or stand-alone CC-VSR course (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)

¹ **Carolina Core Stand Alone or Overlay Eligible Requirements** — Overlay-approved courses offer students the option of meeting two Carolina Core components in a single course. A maximum of two overlays is allowed. The total Carolina Core credit hours must add up to a minimum of 31 hours. Some programs may have a higher number of minimum Carolina Core hours due to specified requirements.

2. College Requirements (15-18 hours)

Foreign Language (0-3 hours)

- only if needed to meet 122-level proficiency

History (3 hours)

The College of Arts and Sciences requires one additional GHS course beyond the Carolina Core GHS requirement.

- If the Carolina Core GHS requirement is fulfilled by a **U.S. history** course, the College of Arts and Sciences history requirement must be fulfilled by a **non-U.S. history** course.
- If the Carolina Core GHS requirement is fulfilled by a **non-U.S. history** course, the College of Arts and Sciences history requirement must be fulfilled by a **U.S. history** course.

Please select the College of Arts and Sciences history requirement from the approved list of U.S. and non-U.S. history courses (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/history-requirement/>).

Social Science and Fine Arts or Humanities (12 hours)

- Social Science (3 hours)**
 - The College of Arts and Science requires one 3- hour Social Science Course (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/courses-acceptable-social-science/>)
- Fine Arts/Humanities (9 Hours)**
 - A Bachelor of Arts from the College of Arts and Sciences requires three 3-hour Fine Arts/Humanities Courses (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/courses-acceptable-fine-arts-humanities/>)

3. Program Requirements (34-49 hours)

Cognate or Minor (12-18 hours)

Students must complete a cognate (12 hours) or a minor as part of this program. In lieu of a cognate or minor, an additional major may be added to a student's program of study. **Additional majors must include all major courses as well as any prescribed courses noted (*) in the bulletin.**

Prescribed courses noted in the bulletin may be shared with Carolina Core, College requirements, and Program requirements in the primary program.

Cognate (12 hours)

The cognate must consist of twelve (12) hours of courses at the advanced level, outside of but related to the major. The cognate may be taken in one or more departments or programs.

Courses offered by departments and programs that are acceptable for cognate credit are outlined in the section titled Courses Acceptable for Cognate Credit in Degree Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/courses-acceptable-cognate/>). Some major programs have specific cognate requirements. It should be emphasized that the cognate is not a second set of elective courses to be chosen at random by the student. Students are urged to consult their major advisors for specific requirements in their major.

For Bachelor of Arts degrees, all cognate courses must be passed with a grade of C or higher.

Minor (18 hours)

In place of the cognate a student in the College of Arts and Sciences may choose a minor consisting of at least 18 credit hours of prescribed courses.

The minor is intended to develop a coherent basic preparation in a second area of study. It differs from the cognate inasmuch as the courses must follow a structured sequence.

Courses applied toward general education requirements cannot be counted toward the minor. No course may satisfy both major and minor requirements. **All minor courses must be passed with a grade of C or higher.** At least half of the courses in the minor must be completed in residence at the University.

A list of minor programs of study can be found at Programs A-Z (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/programs-az/>).

Electives (16-37 hours)

120 (or 128) degree applicable credits are required to complete any degree at USC. After the cognate, minor or second major is complete, any additional credits needed to reach 120 (or 128) total credits can

be fulfilled by electives. No courses of a remedial, developmental, skill-acquiring, or vocational nature may apply as credit toward degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences allows the use of the Pass-Fail option on elective courses. Further clarification on inapplicable courses can be obtained from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Note: 13-34 hours of electives will be needed to reach hours to graduate and Program Requirements will range from 31-46 hours, if completing the B.A. with Distinction in Philosophy.

4. Major Requirements (24 hours)

A minimum grade of C is required in all major courses.

Major Courses (12 hours)

Course	Title	Credits
PHIL 390	Junior Seminar in Philosophy ¹	3
PHIL 490	Senior Seminar in Philosophy	3
Select one course from each of the following groups:		
Ancient Philosophy:		3
PHIL 301	Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 302	Greek and Roman Philosophy after Aristotle	
PHIL 303	History of Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 312	Classical Origins of Western Medical Ethics	
PHIL 313	Between Magic and Method: Ancient Medicine	
PHIL 371	Writing-Intensive: Ancient Philosophy	
Modern Philosophy:		3
PHIL 304	Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century Philosophy	
PHIL 305	Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Philosophy	
PHIL 310	American Philosophy	
PHIL 311	Existentialism	
PHIL 372	Writing-Intensive: Modern Philosophy	
Writing-Intensive ²		
PHIL 371	Writing-Intensive: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 372	Writing-Intensive: Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 373	Writing-Intensive: Field of Philosophy	
Total Credit Hours		12

¹ Students majoring in philosophy are encouraged to take PHIL 390 during the junior year, or before the final 30 hours of study.

² The course that fulfills this requirement will be used elsewhere in the major. Students majoring in Philosophy are encouraged to take a writing-intensive course prior to taking PHIL 390.

Major Electives (12 hours)

- Two courses in Philosophy at the 500-level
- Two courses in Philosophy numbered 201 or above

Major Concentration in Society, Ethics, and Law (24 hours) *optional*

Students may choose to complete a concentration in Society, Ethics, and Law instead of the general Philosophy major requirements.

Course	Title	Credits
PHIL 390	Junior Seminar in Philosophy ¹	3
PHIL 490	Senior Seminar in Philosophy	3
Select one course from each of the following groups:		
Ancient Philosophy		3
PHIL 301	Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 302	Greek and Roman Philosophy after Aristotle	
PHIL 303	History of Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 312	Classical Origins of Western Medical Ethics	
PHIL 313	Between Magic and Method: Ancient Medicine	
PHIL 371	Writing-Intensive: Ancient Philosophy	
Modern Philosophy		3
PHIL 304	Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century Philosophy	
PHIL 305	Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Philosophy	
PHIL 310	American Philosophy	
PHIL 311	Existentialism	
PHIL 372	Writing-Intensive: Modern Philosophy	
Writing-Intensive ²		
PHIL 371	Writing-Intensive: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 372	Writing-Intensive: Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 373	Writing-Intensive: Field of Philosophy	
Ethics		3
PHIL 103	Special Topics in Ethics and Values ³	
PHIL 211	Contemporary Moral Issues ³	
PHIL 213	Communicating Moral Issues ³	
PHIL 320	Ethics ³	
PHIL 321	Medical Ethics ³	
PHIL 322	Environmental Ethics ³	
PHIL 323	Ethics of Science and Technology	
PHIL 324	Business Ethics ³	
PHIL 325	Engineering Ethics ³	
PHIL 514	Ethical Theory	
PHIL 527	Virtues, Acts, and Consequences	
Social, Political, or Legal Philosophy		6
Select two of the following:		
PHIL 329	Law and Religion	
PHIL 330	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 331	Crime and Justice	
PHIL 334	Feminist Philosophy	
PHIL 335	Disobedience, Dissent, and Revolution ³	
PHIL 370	Special Topics in Philosophy ⁴	
PHIL 390	Junior Seminar in Philosophy ⁴	
PHIL 531	Jurisprudence	
PHIL 532	Social Justice	
Select one course in Philosophy numbered 201 or above		3
Select two courses in Philosophy at the 500-level ⁵		
Total Credit Hours		24

¹ Students majoring in Philosophy are encouraged to take PHIL 390 during the junior year, or before the final 30 hours of study.

² The course that fulfills this requirement will be used elsewhere in the major. Students majoring in Philosophy are encouraged to take a writing-intensive course prior to taking PHIL 390.

³ Courses used to fulfill Carolina Core requirements may not also be used to fulfill major requirements.

⁴ The Undergraduate Committee of the Philosophy Department, in consultation with the faculty member teaching the class, will determine whether PHIL 370 Special Topics and PHIL 390 Junior Seminar courses can be used in the Social, Political, or Legal Philosophy requirement.

⁵ The courses that fulfill this requirement may be used elsewhere in the major.

B.A. with Distinction (27 hours)

The Departmental Undergraduate Research Track is available to students majoring in philosophy who wish to participate in significant research activities in collaboration with, or under the supervision of, a faculty mentor.

In addition to the Major Requirements, students must complete the following:

- PHIL 495
- A minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30
- A public presentation of the Senior Thesis in one of the following venues:
 - Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy (or another appropriate meeting)
 - A regular or special session of the Philosophy Department Colloquium Series
 - USC Discovery Day
 - Submission to an undergraduate or a professional journal
- A written sponsorship agreement with the supervising faculty member will be placed on file in the Department of Philosophy office.

Major Map

A major map is a layout of required courses in a given program of study, including critical courses and suggested course sequences to ensure a clear path to graduation.

Major maps are only a suggested or recommended sequence of courses required in a program of study. Please contact your academic advisor for assistance in the application of specific coursework to a program of study and course selection and planning for upcoming semesters.

Philosophy, B.A.

Philosophy, B.A. Society, Ethics, and Law Concentration