

# PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park

**Spring 2024 Curricular Update:** The program description, entrance requirements, and program requirements detailed on this page are effective beginning Spring 2024. To learn more about what approved curricular changes take effect in Spring 2024, please visit the Changes to the UG Bulletin page (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/using-this-bulletin/#changestotheugbulletintext>). To view the requirements in effect for Fall 2023, please visit the 2023-24 Undergraduate Bulletin PDF (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/pdf/undergraduate.pdf>).

## Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	21
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	30

**3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.**

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

### Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
	Select 9 credits in philosophy at the 200 level	9
<b>Requirements for the Option</b>		
<i>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
	Select an option	21

### Requirements for the Option

#### General Philosophy Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	3

#### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level	6
Select one of the following:	3
PHIL 200	Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 201	Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 202	Modern Philosophy: 1600-1800
PHIL 203	Nineteenth Century Philosophy
PHIL 204	Twentieth Century Philosophy

#### Supporting Courses and Related Areas

*Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 9 credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser	9
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#### Humanities and Arts Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PHIL 10	Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	
Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level	6	
Select one of the following:	3	
PHIL 401	American Philosophy	
PHIL 402	Seminar in European Philosophy	
PHIL 409	Seminar in Aesthetics	
PHIL 413	Seminar in Philosophy of Literature	
PHIL 424	Seminar in Philosophy of Religion	
PHIL 435	Science and Religion	

#### Supporting Courses and Related Areas

*Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 6 additional credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser	6
Select 3 credits at the 400 level in a related arts or humanities discipline, in consultation with adviser	3

#### Philosophy of Science and Mathematics Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level	6	
Select one of the following:	3	
PHIL 407	Seminar in Philosophy of Technology	
PHIL 410	Seminar in Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 425W	Seminar in Epistemology	
PHIL 426W	Seminar in Metaphysics	
PHIL 427	Seminar in Philosophy of Mind	

#### Supporting Courses and Related Areas

*Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 6 additional credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser	6
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Select 3 credits at the 400 level in a mathematics or natural science discipline, in consultation with adviser 3

### Social Sciences Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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#### Prescribed Courses

*Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	3
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#### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level 6

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 401	American Philosophy	
PHIL 408W	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 416	Philosophy of Social Science	
PHIL 425W	Seminar in Epistemology	
PHIL 438	Seminar in Feminist Philosophy	

#### Supporting Courses and Related Areas

*Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 6 additional credits in philosophy at the 400 level, in consultation with adviser 6

Select 3 credits at the 400 level in social science, in consultation with adviser 3

### Professional Studies Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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#### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 6 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level 6

PHIL 10	Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 405	Seminar in Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 418	Seminar in Ethical Theory	
PHIL 432	Medical and Health Care Ethics	
PHIL 433	Ethics in Science and Engineering	
PHIL 435	Science and Religion	

#### Supporting Courses and Related Areas

*Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 9 credits at the 400 level in a professional area outside philosophy, in consultation with adviser 9

### Justice, Law, and Values Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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#### Prescribed Courses

*Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

PHIL 105	Philosophy of Law	3
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#### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

PHIL 10	Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	

Select 3 credits in philosophy at the 00 or 100 level 3

Select 3 credits in philosophy at the 400 level 3

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 403	Seminar in Environmental Ethics	
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PHIL 405	Seminar in Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 407	Seminar in Philosophy of Technology	
PHIL 408W	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 418	Seminar in Ethical Theory	
PHIL 425W	Seminar in Epistemology	
PHIL 432	Medical and Health Care Ethics	
PHIL 433	Ethics in Science and Engineering	
PHIL 438	Seminar in Feminist Philosophy	
Select two of the following:		6
AFAM 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America	
AFAM 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement	
CAS 321	Rhetoric and Law	
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications	
HIST 449	Constitutional History of the United States to 1877	
HIST 450	Constitutional History of the United States since 1877	
LST 370	Research Methods for Law and Government Information Resources	
PLSC 403	The Legislative Process	
PLSC 412	International Political Economy	
PLSC 424	Topics in Comparative Government and Institutions	
PLSC 431	Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Political Theories	
PLSC 432	Modern and Contemporary Political Theories	
PLSC 471	American Constitutional Law	
PLSC 472	The American Legal Process	
PLSC 474	Civil Liberties and Due Process	
WMNST 423	Sexual and Domestic Violence	
WMNST 453	Women and the Criminal Justice System	

## General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

### Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

### Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits

- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

### Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

### Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

## University Degree Requirements

### First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

### Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

### Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

### Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

### Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

### Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## B.A. Degree Requirements

**Foreign Language** (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising->

[planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/](#)).

**B.A. Fields** (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

**Other Cultures** (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.