

Philosophy

Department Website: <http://philosophy.uchicago.edu>

Philosophy Undergraduate Wiki

<https://wiki.uchicago.edu/display/phildir/Philosophy+Wiki+Home+Page>

Email Lists

All majors and minors in philosophy should immediately subscribe to two Department of Philosophy email lists: philugs@lists.uchicago.edu and philosophy@lists.uchicago.edu. These lists are the department's primary means of disseminating information on the undergraduate program, deadlines, prizes, fellowships, and events. Information on how to subscribe can be found here: <https://coral.uchicago.edu:8443/display/phildir/Philosophy+Email+Lists>.

Program of Study

Philosophy covers a wide range of historical periods and fields. The BA program in philosophy is intended to acquaint students with some of the classic texts of the discipline and with the different areas of inquiry, as well as to train students in rigorous methods of argument. In addition to the standard major, the department offers two tracks. The intensive track option is for qualified students interested in small group discussions of major philosophical problems and texts. The option in philosophy and allied fields is designed for students who wish to pursue an interdisciplinary program involving philosophy and some other field. All three options are described in the next section.

The course offerings described include both 20000-level courses (normally restricted to College students) and 30000-level courses (open to graduate students and advanced College students). There is room for a good deal of flexibility in individual planning of programs. Most of the requirements allow some choice among options. Course prerequisites may be relaxed with the consent of the instructor, and College students may take 40000- and 50000-level courses (normally restricted to graduate students) under special circumstances. Students should work out their program under the guidance of the director of undergraduate studies.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Philosophy. Information follows the description of the major.

Program Requirements

All majors will be required to meet with the assistant to the director of undergraduate studies during Winter Quarter of their third year to review their program of study and discuss the possibility of writing the senior essay.

The Standard Major

The following basic requirements for the standard major in philosophy are intended to constitute a core philosophy curriculum and to provide some structure within an extremely varied collection of course offerings that changes from year to year.

The Department of Philosophy offers a three-quarter sequence in the history of philosophy (PHIL 25000 History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy, PHIL 26000 History of Philosophy II: Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy, and PHIL 27000 History of Philosophy III: Nineteenth Century Philosophy), which begins in the first quarter with ancient Greek philosophy and ends in the third quarter with nineteenth-century philosophy. Students are required to take two courses from this sequence (any two are acceptable) and are encouraged to take all three. Students are also encouraged to take these courses early in their program because they make an appropriate introduction to more advanced courses.

Students may bypass PHIL 20100 Elementary Logic for a more advanced course if they can demonstrate to the instructor that they are qualified to begin at a higher level.

Standard majors are welcome to apply to write senior essays. For more information, please see The Senior Essay (below).

Distribution

At least two courses in one of the following two fields and at least one course in the other field: (A) practical philosophy and (B) theoretical philosophy.

Courses that may be counted toward these requirements are indicated in the course descriptions by boldface letters in parentheses. Other courses may not be used to meet field distribution requirements.

Summary of Requirements: Standard Major

Two of the following:		200
PHIL 25000	History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 26000	History of Philosophy II: Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 27000	History of Philosophy III: Nineteenth Century Philosophy	
PHIL 20100	Elementary Logic (or approved alternative course in logic)	100
One of the following:		300

One from field A and two from field B	
Two from field A and one from field B	
Four additional courses in philosophy *	400
Total Units	1000

* These courses must be drawn from departmental offerings. Students should consult with the director of undergraduate studies regarding courses taken at other colleges. Only one of these courses may be satisfied by participation in the BA essay workshop.

The Intensive Track

Admission to the intensive track requires an application, which must be submitted by the middle of the Spring Quarter in the student's second year. The application form is on the department wiki (<https://coral.uchicago.edu:8443/display/phildr/Philosophy+Undergraduate+Wiki>). The director of undergraduate studies and the assistant to the director of undergraduate studies will have "interview" meetings following the application deadline. (The departmental website lists the office hours of the director of undergraduate studies and the assistant to the director of undergraduate studies.)

The intensive track is designed to acquaint students with the problems and methods of philosophy in more depth than is possible for students in the standard major. It differs from the standard program mainly by offering the opportunity to meet in the following very small discussion groups: the intensive track seminar in the Autumn Quarter of the third or fourth year (PHIL 29601 Intensive Track Seminar), PHIL 29200 Junior Tutorial, and PHIL 29300 Senior Tutorial.

Note on the pacing and scheduling of the intensive track: Intensive track majors take PHIL 29601 Intensive Track Seminar in Autumn Quarter of their third year. Students fulfill the tutorial requirement by selecting one junior tutorial (PHIL 29200) in any quarter of their third year and one senior tutorial (PHIL 29300) in any quarter of their fourth year. Finally, intensive track students must write a senior essay. The essay process includes participation in the Senior Seminar over the three quarters of their fourth year; students must register for PHIL 29901 Senior Seminar I and PHIL 29902 Senior Seminar II in two of these three quarters.

Summary of Requirements: Intensive Track

Two of the following:		200
PHIL 25000	History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 26000	History of Philosophy II: Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 27000	History of Philosophy III: Nineteenth Century Philosophy	
PHIL 20100	Elementary Logic (or approved alternative course in logic)	100
One of the following:		300
One from field A and two from field B		
Two from field A and one from field B		
PHIL 29200	Junior Tutorial	100
PHIL 29300	Senior Tutorial	100
PHIL 29601	Intensive Track Seminar	100
PHIL 29901 & PHIL 29902	Senior Seminar I and Senior Seminar II	200
Two additional courses in philosophy *		200
Total Units		1300

* These courses must be drawn from departmental offerings. Students should consult with the director of undergraduate studies regarding courses taken at other colleges.

Philosophy and Allied Fields

This variant of the major is a specialist option for students with a clear and detailed picture of a coherent interdisciplinary course of study, not available under the standard forms of major and minor. Examples of recent programs devised by students electing this track are philosophy and mathematics, philosophy and biology, and philosophy and economics. Students in this program must meet the first three of the basic requirements for the standard major (a total of six courses) and take six additional courses that together constitute a coherent program; at least one of these six additional courses must be in the Department of Philosophy. *Students must receive approval for the specific courses they choose to be used as the allied fields courses. Admission to philosophy and allied fields requires an application to the director of undergraduate studies, which should be made by the middle of Spring Quarter of their second year.* To apply, students must submit a sample program of courses as well as a statement explaining the nature of the interdisciplinary area of study and the purpose of the proposed allied fields program. Applicants must also have the agreement of a member of the Department of Philosophy to serve as their sponsor in the program. Interested students should consult with the assistant to the director of undergraduate studies before applying; for office hours and the application form, visit the departmental wiki (<https://coral.uchicago.edu:8443/display/phildr/Philosophy+Undergraduate+Wiki>) or website.

Summary of Requirements: Philosophy and Allied Fields

Two of the following:		200
PHIL 25000	History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 26000	History of Philosophy II: Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 27000	History of Philosophy III: Nineteenth Century Philosophy	
PHIL 20100	Elementary Logic (or approved alternative course in logic)	100
One of the following:		300
One from field A and two from field B		
Two from field A and one from field B		
Six additional courses, at least one of which must be in the Department of Philosophy *		600
Total Units		1200

* Only one of these courses may be satisfied by participation in the BA essay workshop.

The Senior Essay

Students who have been admitted to the intensive track are required to write a senior essay (also called the “BA essay”). Standard majors and philosophy and allied fields majors may also apply to write an essay. The proposal should be formulated in consultation with a faculty adviser who has expertise in the topic area. Potential advisers can be approached directly, but the assistant to the director of undergraduate studies can help pair students with suitable advisers as needed. BA essay applications are due middle of Spring Quarter. Applications are available from the shelves outside the Philosophy Department office (Stuart 202) as well as on the wiki (<https://coral.uchicago.edu:8443/display/phildr/Philosophy+Undergraduate+Wiki>).

Students writing a BA essay in philosophy are normally expected to have maintained a GPA of 3.25 in their philosophy courses. A 3.25 is also the minimum GPA for departmental honors in philosophy. Students should submit, along with their application to write a BA essay, a record of their grades in the College. If a student who wishes to write a BA essay in philosophy has a GPA in philosophy courses below 3.25, the student should also submit a petition in writing to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

In their fourth year, students writing BA essays must participate in the senior seminar. The seminar runs all three quarters, and though attendance during all three is required, participants will only register for two of the three quarters. Students should register for PHIL 29901 Senior Seminar I in Autumn (or Winter) Quarter and for PHIL 29902 Senior Seminar II in Winter (or Spring) Quarter. These two courses are among the requirements for the intensive track. For essay writers who are in the standard track or the allied fields track, both courses must be taken; however, only one will be counted toward the track's total-units requirement.

Grading

All courses for all tracks must be taken for a quality grade.

Honors

The main requirement for honors is a senior essay of distinction. A GPA in the major of 3.25 or higher typically also is required.

Transfer Students

Requirements for students transferring to the University of Chicago are the same as for other students. Up to (but typically no more than) three courses from another institution may be counted toward major requirements. All such courses must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

Advising

Students should contact the director of undergraduate studies with questions concerning program plans, honors, and so forth.

Minor Program in Philosophy

The minor program in philosophy provides a basic introduction to some central figures and themes in both the history of philosophy and in current philosophical controversies. The minor requires six courses: students must take: either two courses from the history of philosophy sequence and one course from field A or field B, along with three additional courses in philosophy; or one course from the history of philosophy sequence and one course from each of fields A and B, along with three additional courses in philosophy.

No courses in the minor can be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors; nor can they be counted toward general education requirements. They must be taken for quality grades.

Students who elect the minor program should meet with the director of undergraduate studies before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the program. The approval of the director of undergraduate studies for the minor should be submitted to the student's College adviser, on a form obtained from the College adviser, no later than the end of the student's third year.

Samples follow of two groups of courses that would comprise a minor:

SAMPLE 1

Two of the following:		200
PHIL 25000	History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 26000	History of Philosophy II: Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 27000	History of Philosophy III: Nineteenth Century Philosophy	
One from either field A or field B		100
Three additional courses in philosophy		300
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Total Units		600

SAMPLE 2

One of the following:		100
PHIL 25000	History of Philosophy I: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 26000	History of Philosophy II: Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 27000	History of Philosophy III: Nineteenth Century Philosophy	
One from field A		100
One from field B		100
Three additional courses in philosophy		300
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Total Units		600



Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.