PHILOSOPHY MAJOR (B.A.)

https://cola.unh.edu/philosophy/program/ba/philosophy-major

Description

UNH philosophy majors acquire the ability to think systematically and imaginatively about fundamental and enduring issues such as morality, justice, happiness, beauty, gender, race, nature, artificial intelligence, space, time, and the meaning of life and death. Our internationally-renowned professors emphasize discussion, debate and writing in our courses. Wrestling with the “big questions” from diverse and global perspectives will prepare you exceptionally well for a variety of fulfilling careers. A lively and nurturing community personally invested in the success of our high achieving students, we take pride in watching our graduates excel in top law and graduate schools, innovative social justice programs, and various positions from Wall Street to Silicon Valley and beyond that seek hard workers who can think rigorously and communicate clearly.

Requirements

Majors must take a minimum of ten (10) philosophy courses, for a total of 40 credits. A single course can satisfy multiple requirements for the major. The required minimum overall GPA in major coursework is 2.00 and minimum grade of C- for all courses counting toward the major. Candidates for a degree must satisfy additional University requirements for graduation, such as:

1. University “Writing Intensive” Requirements,
2. Liberal Arts Foreign Language Requirement (B.A. candidates only),
3. minimum number of credits (128 credits for B.A. degree), and
4. University Discovery Requirements.

Consult with your adviser early and often to plan the optimal path for fulfilling major and University requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 412</td>
<td>Beginning Logic</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 500</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 530</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 570</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 580</td>
<td>Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant</td>
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Electives 1

Select three (3) additional philosophy courses of the student’s choice.

Discovery Capstone Requirement

Select two (2) 700-level seminars of the student’s choice, at least one of these should be taken in the senior year.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>40</td>
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1 PHIL 495 Tutorial Reading and PHIL 795 Independent Study normally do not count toward fulfilling major requirement credits; exceptions may be granted by special permission.

Student Learning Outcomes

UNH philosophy majors acquire the ability to think systematically and imaginatively about fundamental and enduring issues such as morality, justice, happiness, beauty, gender, race, nature, artificial intelligence, space, time, and the meaning of life and death. Our internationally-renowned professors emphasize discussion, debate and writing in our courses. Wrestling with the “big questions” from diverse and global
perspectives prepares students exceptionally well for a variety of fulfilling careers. Cultivating a lively and nurturing community personally invested in the success of our high achieving students, we take pride in watching our graduates excel in top law and graduate schools, innovative social justice programs, and various positions from Wall Street to Silicon Valley.

More concretely, we monitor the following learning objectives.

- Students understand major philosophers and philosophical ideas accurately.
- Students apply their understanding of ideas in novel contexts.
- Students write effectively.
- Students speak effectively.
- Students argue with depth, precision, balance, and insight.
- Students understand the formal structure of arguments and understand rules of inference.
- Students read analytically, critically, and empathetically.
- Students critically assess their own preconceptions, commitments and ideas.

The main way we oversee student progress is through close mentorship, early on in our 2nd year orientation designed for new majors (PHIL 500 Workshop), and culminating in their presentation of research in two required 700-level seminars. We also strongly encourage participation in the annual Philosophy Department Undergraduate Research Conference.