

# PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy addresses fundamental questions about the most basic assumptions often made in other disciplines, and which seem to require more reflection. Examples include: What counts as scientific knowledge? What are we morally required to do? Can machines think? Do we have free will? And so on. The goal of philosophical work is to find rigorous ways of arguing for answers to such questions; courses emphasize clear writing and thinking, effective communication, and cogent argumentation.

## About this Program

- **College:** Liberal Arts and Sciences (<http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/>)
- **Degree:** Bachelor of Arts
- **Credits for Degree:** 120

*To graduate with this major, students must complete all university, college, and major requirements.*

## Department Information

The Department of Philosophy addresses foundation questions. These are questions the answers to which inform our basic understanding of one or another domain of inquiry, or some fundamental aspect of the world or ourselves or our relation to the world.

**Website** (<http://phil.ufl.edu/>)

### CONTACT

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Map (<http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0010>)

### Curriculum

- Combination Degrees
- Philosophy
- Philosophy Minor

Philosophical problem examination is primarily conceptual rather than empirical, in that philosophers seek to develop conceptual accounts adequate to the phenomena they want to understand. The study of philosophy equips one to address difficult issues with critical thinking and sound reasoning, skills essential to effective thought and communication.

Training in philosophy prepares one for professions that require careful analysis of data, communicating with a wide variety of stakeholders, and making persuasive cases for important decisions. Majors often go on to law school, business school, politics, and public sector jobs involving research. See the department's home page at [www.phil.ufl.edu](http://www.phil.ufl.edu) ([http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/PPY\\_BA/www.phil.ufl.edu](http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/PPY_BA/www.phil.ufl.edu)) for more information on the nature of philosophical work and its benefits.

## Requirements for the Major

The major requires 33 credits of coursework in philosophy with minimum grades of C. Six philosophy major courses (18 credits) must be taken at UF.

### Required Major Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses</b>		
PHH 3100	Ancient Greek Philosophy	3
PHH 3400	Modern Philosophy	3
PHI 3130	Symbolic Logic	3
PHI 3300	Theory of Knowledge	3
or PHI 3500	Metaphysics	
PHI 3650	Moral Philosophy	3
<b>Philosophy Major Electives</b> <sup>1</sup>		
4000-level or above Philosophy courses		6
3000-level or above Philosophy courses		6
2000-level or above Philosophy courses		6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>33</b>

<sup>1</sup> No more than three credits of individual work (PHH 4911, PHI 4905, or PHI 4911) can count toward the 33 credits for the major.

<sup>2</sup> The following courses will not count toward the six credits of 4000 level or above Philosophy courses:

Code	Title	Credits
PHH 4911	Undergraduate Research in History of Philosophy	3
PHI 4905	Individual Work	1-3
PHI 4911	Undergraduate Research in Philosophy	3
PHI 4912	Honors Project	3

- To enroll in a 4000-level course, a student must complete a 3000-level philosophy course or receive instructor permission.

Prior to advance registration each semester, the department makes available on its website customized descriptions of its undergraduate courses offered in the upcoming semester.

## Course Details

- More Info (<https://phil.ufl.edu/classes/>)

## Research

It is possible to write an honors thesis, which involves independent research under the supervision of a faculty director. This is usually a two-semester process in the final year.

More Info (<https://phil.ufl.edu/honors-thesis/>)

## Critical Tracking

Critical Tracking records each student's progress in courses that are required for progress toward each major. Please note the critical-tracking requirements below on a per-semester basis.

**For degree requirements outside of the major, refer to CLAS Degree Requirements: Structure of a CLAS Degree.**

Equivalent critical-tracking courses as determined by the State of Florida Common Course Prerequisites (<https://cpm.flvc.org/advance-search/>) may be used by transfer students.

## Semester 1

- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 2

- Complete 1 philosophy course
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 3

- Meet Semester 2 Critical Tracking Requirements
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 4

- Complete 1 additional philosophy course with a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 5

- Complete 1 additional philosophy course (1 of the 3 courses must be at the 3000 level) with a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## SEMESTER 6

- Complete 1 additional philosophy course (1 of the 4 courses must be taken from PHH 3100, PHH 3400, PHI 3130, PHI 3650, and either PHI 3300 or PHI 3500)

## SEMESTER 7

- Complete 3 additional upper division philosophy courses (2 of the 7 courses must be taken from PHH 3100, PHH 3400, PHI 3130, PHI 3650, and either PHI 3300 or PHI 3500)

## SEMESTER 8

- Complete 2 additional upper division philosophy courses (4 of the 9 courses must be taken from PHH 3100, PHH 3400, PHI 3130, PHI 3650, and either PHI 3300 or PHI 3500)

### Model Semester Plan

Students are expected to complete the Writing, Civic Literacy, summer enrollment, and Quest requirements while in the process of taking the courses below. Students are also expected to complete the General Education International (GE-N) requirements concurrently with another General Education requirement (typically, GE-C, H, or S) as part of the CLAS Basic Distribution requirements. One of the two general education mathematics courses must be a pure math course.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences allows students additional flexibility in its Distribution Requirements. Students may count a maximum of 6 credits TOTAL from the CLAS Distribution course lists towards Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, or Biological and Physical Sciences, with no more than 3 credits of Humanities, 3 credits of Social and Behavioral Sciences, or 6 credits of Biological or Physical Sciences.

The full list of major-specific requirements for this major can be found on the Overview tab. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree requirements can be found on the college's degree requirements page (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/#degreerequirementstext>).

To remain on track, students must complete the appropriate critical-tracking courses, which appear in bold. These courses must be completed by the terms as listed above in the Critical Tracking criteria.

*This semester plan represents an example progression through the major. Actual courses and course order may be different depending on the student's academic record and scheduling availability of courses. Prerequisites still apply.*

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Semester One</b>		
Quest 1		3
State Core Gen Ed Composition	( <a href="http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a> ); Writing Requirement	3
CLAS Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement <sup>1</sup>		4-5
Electives		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14-15</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>		
State Core Gen Ed Biological or Physical Sciences	( <a href="http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a> )	3
State Core Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences	( <a href="http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a> )	3
Gen Ed Composition; Writing Requirement		3
Philosophy elective ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> )		3
CLAS Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement <sup>1</sup>		3-5
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15-17</b>
<b>Semester Three</b>		
State Core Gen Ed Mathematics, pure math	( <a href="http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a> )	3
Gen Ed Biological or Physical Sciences	(area not taken in semester 2)	3
Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences		3
Required philosophy course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> )		3
Elective (or CLAS Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement if 4-3-3 language option) <sup>1</sup>		3
Natural Science Laboratory <sup>2</sup>		1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Semester Four</b>		
Quest 2		3
Required philosophy course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> )		3
Philosophy elective (3000 level)		3
Gen Ed Physical Sciences		3
Elective (or State Core Gen Ed Humanities if PHI 2010 not taken in semester 2)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Semester Five</b>		
Required philosophy courses		6
Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences		3
Gen Ed Biological Sciences		3
Gen Ed Humanities		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Semester Six**

Required philosophy course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> )	3
Philosophy elective (3000 level)	3
Gen Ed Humanities	3
Gen Ed Mathematics	3
Elective	3
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>

**Semester Seven**

Philosophy elective (3000 level)	3
Philosophy elective (4000 level; <b>Critical Tracking</b> )	3
Elective credits (3000 level or above, not in major)	9
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>

**Semester Eight**

Philosophy elective (4000 level; <b>Critical Tracking</b> )	3
Electives (3000 level or above, not in major)	9
Elective	3
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>120</b>

<sup>1</sup> CLAS Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/#degreerequirementstext>)

<sup>2</sup> Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/#degreerequirementstext>)

## Required Philosophy Courses

Code	Title	Credits
PHH 3100	Ancient Greek Philosophy	3
PHH 3400	Modern Philosophy	3
PHI 3130	Symbolic Logic	3
PHI 3300 or PHI 3500	Theory of Knowledge Metaphysics	3
PHI 3650	Moral Philosophy	3

## Academic Learning Compact

The major in Philosophy provides a thorough knowledge of philosophical problems and arguments as well as critical thinking skills applicable to a wide variety of intellectual areas. Students will become familiar with key positions in the history of Western philosophy, learn how to navigate the contemporary philosophical terrain and acquire a working knowledge of formal logic. They will learn how to represent complex arguments in a clear and fair fashion, to evaluate them for cogency and to construct arguments of their own. Finally, students will become practiced in writing about abstract and elusive topics in a critical and compelling manner.

## Before Graduating Students Must

- Earn minimum grades of C in all courses satisfying the major's distribution requirements, thereby demonstrating achievement of SLOs 1-3.
- Complete a model paper in a 4000-level philosophy course with a minimum grade of B, thereby demonstrating achievement of SLOs 4-7.
- Complete requirements for the baccalaureate degree, as determined by faculty.

## Students in the Major Will Learn to

### Student Learning Outcomes | SLOs

#### Content

1. Identify, describe and explain the major questions addressed, the range of answers offered and the methods employed in the history of Western philosophy.
2. Identify, describe, and explain the major arguments and options in core areas of contemporary philosophy, such as ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics.
3. Employ the fundamental tools of formal logic, including the propositional and predicate calculus.

### Critical Thinking

4. Discern the structure of arguments to represent them fairly and clearly and to evaluate them for cogency.
5. Formulate original arguments, anticipating objections and responding in a conscientious fashion.

### Communication

6. Read and discuss complex philosophical texts from both historical sources and contemporary works.
7. Speak and write clearly and persuasively about abstract and conceptually elusive matters.

### Curriculum Map

*I = Introduced; R = Reinforced; A = Assessed*

Courses	SLO 1	SLO 2	SLO 3	SLO 4	SLO 5	SLO 6	SLO 7
PHH 3100	I, R, A			I, R	I, R	I, R	I, R
PHH 3400	I, R, A			I, R	I, R	I, R	I, R
PHI 3130			I, A	I, R			
PHI 3300 or PHI 3500		I, R, A		I, R	I, R	I, R	I, R
PHI 3650		I, R, A		I, R	I, R	I, R	I, R
4000-level Seminars (two or more)				A	A	A	A
Exit Survey	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

### Assessment Types

- Papers
  - Exams
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