Philosophy (BA/BS)

Philosophy engages fundamental questions concerning human identity, the nature of knowledge and reality, moral virtue and responsibility, the nature of community and political authority, aesthetic judgments and values, and other concepts central to the meaning and value of human existence.

Through the study of primary texts and concrete issues drawn from various historical periods and cultures, philosophy facilitates reflection on actions, beliefs, and values while developing critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. Philosophy also strengthens the ability to reason, enlarges the imagination, and refines aesthetic sensitivity.

With over 200 undergraduate majors and minors, the Philosophy major at the University of Oregon is one of the most vibrant in the country. Our program emphasizes the study of ethics, social and political philosophy, American philosophy, continental philosophy, feminist philosophy, philosophy of mind, the philosophy of race, the history of philosophy, and environmental philosophy.

The philosophy department provides a wide range of opportunities for majors outside the classroom. These include public lectures by prominent visiting philosophers as well as an undergraduate philosophy club. The department also routinely hosts regional, national, and international conferences, and all undergraduates are invited and encouraged to participate in these events.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Delineate the history of Western philosophy and differentiate the main schools of thought, key authors, debates, terms, and methods, that emerged in the history of philosophy.
- Demonstrate critical thinking, reading, and writing skills through use of a broad range of research methods, including collaborative projects and scholarly essays that deal with primary and secondary sources in the literature and are written in an academic format.
- Present and assess views that differ from one's own, particularly perspectives relative to gender, race, class, and culture, including non-Western philosophical perspectives, within an inclusive classroom environment.
- Compare, contrast, and critique representative authors from various philosophical traditions and historical periods.
- Engage in philosophical inquiry that examines a broad range of topics such as human nature, the self and the community, political authority, morality, knowledge and reality, the arts, literature, film, the internet.
- Define and explain the various sub-disciplines within the field of philosophy, such as ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, aesthetics, philosophy of language, philosophical psychology, philosophy of law, environmental philosophy, social and political philosophy, and others, such as they are approached in within various philosophical fields of focus: Continental European, American and Latin American, Asian, feminist, critical race theory, and analytic.

Coursework for the major in philosophy must be passed with grades of C- or better or P (pass). No more than 8 credits may be taken pass/no pass.

Philosophy Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 225	Introduction to Formal Logic	4
Select two of the following:		8
PHIL 310	History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval	
PHIL 311	History of Philosophy: Modern	
PHIL 312	History of Philosophy: 19th Century	
In addition to two of the three history of philosophy courses above, select two additional history or traditions courses:		8
PHIL 310	History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval	
PHIL 311	History of Philosophy: Modern	
PHIL 312	History of Philosophy: 19th Century	
PHIL 342	Introduction to Latin American Philosophy	
PHIL 415	Continental Philosophy: [Topic]	
PHIL 420	American Philosophy: [Topic]	
Select two of the following:		8
PHIL 421	Ancient Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 433	17th- and 18th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 453	19th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 463	20th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL 110	Human Nature	
PHIL 170	Love and Sex	
PHIL 216	Philosophy and Cultural Diversity	
PHIL 315	Introduction to Feminist Philosophy	
PHIL 342	Introduction to Latin American Philosophy	
PHIL 443	Feminist Philosophy: [Topic]	
PHIL 451	Native American Philosophy	
PHIL 452	Philosophy and Race	
Additional philosophy courses		20
Total Credits		**52**

Additional Requirements

- At least 40 credits must be upper-division (300- or 400-level)
- At least 20 upper-division credits must be from courses taken at the University of Oregon

Honors in Philosophy

The philosophy honors program is designed to provide outstanding, highly motivated philosophy majors with the opportunity to develop their skills during the senior year through the independent exploration of a special topic of their own choosing under the guidance of a faculty mentor. To be eligible for admission to the honors program, students must have completed at least 24 credits in philosophy, at least 12 of which have been taken at the University of Oregon. The honors candidate's grade point average (GPA) in philosophy must be at least 3.50, maintained through graduation. To graduate with honors, the candidate must fulfill the following requirements:

Courses

Besides the courses required of majors, a candidate for departmental honors must take at least 16 of the 52 credits in philosophy at the 400 level.

Senior Thesis

The candidate must write an honors thesis under the guidance of a member of the philosophy faculty chosen as thesis advisor. The thesis must demonstrate the student's ability to formulate a significant research problem, research primary resources, interpret sources with imagination and technical skill, and present the finished work in a form meeting professional standards in philosophy. The thesis must be approved by a thesis committee consisting of two faculty members from the philosophy department. Approval of the thesis depends in part on a public defense attended by the committee.

Upon fulfilling these requirements, the candidate is approved to receive a bachelor's degree with honors in philosophy.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
PHIL 101	Philosophical Problems	4	
PHIL 101 or any 100/200 level class			
First term of first-year second-language sequence		4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 102	Ethics	4	
PHIL 102 or any 100/200 level class			
Second term of first-year second-language sequence		4	
WR 122Z	Composition II	4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
PHIL 103	Critical Reasoning	4	
PHIL 103 or any 100/200 level class			
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education social science course		4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
PHIL 310	History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval	4	
one of PHIL 310, 311, or 312			
First term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 311	History of Philosophy: Modern	4	
one of PHIL 310, 311, or 312			
Second term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
100- or 200-level PHIL course		4	
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
PHIL 312	History of Philosophy: 19th Century	4	
one of 310, 311, 312, 342, 415, or 420			
PHIL 225	Introduction to Formal Logic	4	
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
PHIL 453	19th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	4	
General-education social science course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Multicultural course in international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 463	20th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	4	
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
General-education social science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
one of PHIL 310, 311, 312, 342, 415, 420			
General-education science course		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**12**	
	Total Credits	**44**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
Elective courses		8	
	Credits	**12**	

Winter		
Elective courses		16
	Credits	**16**
Spring		
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4
Elective courses		8
	Credits	**12**
	Total Credits	**40**

Bachelor of Science in Philosophy

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
PHIL 101	Philosophical Problems	4	
Mathematics course		4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 102	Ethics	4	
Mathematics course		4	
WR 122Z	Composition II	4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
PHIL 103	Critical Reasoning	4	
Mathematics course		4	
General-education social science course		4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
PHIL 310	History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval	4	
Elective course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 311	History of Philosophy: Modern	4	
100- or 200-level PHIL course		4	
Elective course		4	
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
PHIL 312	History of Philosophy: 19th Century	4	
Elective course		4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
	Credits	**12**	
	Total Credits	**44**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
PHIL 453	19th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	4	
General-education social science course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Multicultural course in international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 463	20th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	4	
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
General-education social science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**12**	
	Total Credits	**44**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
Elective courses		8	
	Credits	**12**	
Winter			
Elective courses		16	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
Elective courses		8	
	Credits	**12**	
	Total Credits	**40**	