

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR (B.A.)

Philosophy is the rational inquiry into our most basic beliefs and values. Socrates famously said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." This examination involves seeking answers to questions like these:

How should I live? • What is truth? • How is the mind related to the body? • Do we have free will? • What is justice? • How should we make ethical judgments when there seems to be no clear right or wrong answer? • Are we more likely to know what is real through reason or through the senses? • How am I related to the world and to others? • What is the value of art? • How does technology mediate our engagement with the world and with others?

A philosopher's examination into these issues is grounded on evidence, reasoning, and argument. If you are a curious person who enjoys intellectual challenges, then you may find a philosophy classroom invigorating.

What many people do not know about studying philosophy is that it is practically valuable. How so? Philosophy students acquire the following set of cognitive transferable skills, which are valuable in many professions within the 21st-century knowledge economy:

- Logical reasoning
- Problem solving and creative thinking
- Clear and persuasive writing
- Abstract conceptualization
- Mental dexterity
- The ability to develop and assess different perspectives and frameworks

Common professions for philosophy majors:

- Technology
- Business
- Law
- Government
- Advertising
- Journalism
- Sales
- Human Resources
- Activism
- Teaching
- Public Policy

120 credits of coursework is required for the baccalaureate degree with a minimum 2.0 overall GPA, and a minimum 2.0 major GPA.

Program Requirements Overview

Code	Title	Credits
	General Education Requirements	42
	World Languages and Cultures Requirements	3-9
	Major Requirements	36
	Free Electives ¹	39-33
Total Credits		120

¹ Graduate Swing Courses will count toward free electives for students in combined (UG/GR) programs.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
<i>Logic</i>		
PHIL 264	Critical Reasoning and Arguments	3
<i>Value Theory</i>		
Complete 2 courses from the following:		
PHIL 200	History of Ethics	
PHIL 212	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 260	Philosophies of Art	
PHIL 290	Special Topics in Fields in Philosophy	
<i>Knowledge and Reality</i>		6
Complete 2 courses from the following:		
PHIL 266	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 270	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 310	Knowledge, Belief and Truth	
PHIL 312	Existence and Reality	
PHIL 390	Special Topics in Fields of Philosophy	
<i>History</i>		3
Complete 1 course from the following:		
PHIL 331	History of Philosophy: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 333	History of Philosophy: Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 395	Special Topics in Periods of Movements	
<i>Traditions in Contemporary Philosophy</i>		3
Complete 1 course from the following:		
PHIL 231	American Philosophy	
PHIL 337	Analytic Philosophy	
PHIL 339	Contemporary Continental Philosophy	
PHIL 397	Special Topics in Periods of Movements	
<i>Seminar</i>		
PHIL 424	Seminar in Philosophy	3
Major Electives		12
Complete 4 courses from the list below. Only 1 course may be at the 100 level.		
Total Credits		36

Major Electives

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 100	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL 102	Ethics	3
PHIL 106	Logic	3

PHIL 200	History of Ethics	3
PHIL 202	Ethics and Business	3
PHIL 204	Philosophical Issues in Biomedical Ethics	3
PHIL 206	Philosophical Issues in Law and Justice	3
PHIL 212	Social and Political Philosophy	3
PHIL 214	Ethics of Love, Sex and Desire	3
PHIL 231	American Philosophy	3
PHIL 233	Contemporary Philosophers	3
PHIL 237	Asian Philosophy	3
PHIL 239	Existentialism	3
PHIL 260	Philosophies of Art	3
PHIL 262	Philosophy of Religion	3
PHIL 266	Philosophy of Science	3
PHIL 270	Philosophy of Mind	3
PHIL 271	Philosophy of Sport	3
PHIL 280	Philosophy of Technology	3
PHIL 288	Introduction to Cognitive Science	3
PHIL 290	Special Topics in Fields in Philosophy	3
PHIL 295	Special Topics in Periods and Movements	3
PHIL 310	Knowledge, Belief and Truth	3
PHIL 312	Existence and Reality	3
PHIL 316	Philosophy of Law	3
PHIL 324	Legal Reasoning	3
PHIL 330	Philosophy and Death	3
PHIL 331	History of Philosophy: Ancient Philosophy	3
PHIL 333	History of Philosophy: Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 337	Analytic Philosophy	3
PHIL 339	Contemporary Continental Philosophy	3
PHIL 376	Feminist Jurisprudence	3
PHIL 390	Special Topics in Fields of Philosophy	3
PHIL 395	Special Topics in Periods of Movements	3
PHIL 397	Special Topics in Periods of Movements	3
PHIL 446	Independent Study in Philosophy	3-12

General Education Requirements

Click here for a list of courses that fulfill General Education categories. (<http://catalog.montclair.edu/undergraduate-graduate-degree-requirements/general-ed-ba-bs/>)

Code	Title	Credits
A. New Student Seminar		
	Complete a 1 credit New Student Seminar	1
C. Communication		
	1. Writing	3
	2. Literature	3
	3. Communication	3
D. Fine and Performing Arts		
	Complete a 3 credit Fine and Performing Arts course.	3
F. Humanities		
	1. Great Works and Their Influences	3
	2. Philosophical and Religious Perspectives	3
G. Computer Science		
	Complete a 3 credit Computer Science course.	3

H. Mathematics		
	Complete a 3 credit Mathematics course.	3
I. Natural Science Laboratory		
	Complete a 4 credit Natural Science Laboratory course.	4
J. Physical Education		
	Complete a 1 credit Physical Education course.	1
K. Social Science		
	1. American and European History	3
	2. Global Cultural Perspectives	3
	3. Social Science Perspectives	3
L. Interdisciplinary Studies		
	Complete a 3 credit Interdisciplinary Studies course.	3
Total Credits		42

World Languages and Cultures Requirements

Click here for a list of courses that fulfill World Languages and Cultures categories. (<http://catalog.montclair.edu/undergraduate-graduate-degree-requirements/world-languages-cultures-requirement/>)

Code	Title	Credits
World Languages		
	Based on language placement exam, complete one or two sequential courses in the same language.	3-6
World Cultures		
	Requirement may be fulfilled by course selected in General Education - Social Science: Global Cultural Perspectives.	0-3
Total Credits		3-9

Recommended Roadmap to Degree Completion

This recommended four-year plan is provided as an outline for students to follow in order to complete their degree requirements within four years. This plan is a recommendation and students should only use it in consultation with their academic advisor.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall		
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (A) New Student Seminar	1
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (C1) Writing	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (C3) Communication	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (K3) Social Science – Social Science Perspectives	3
PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106	Introduction to Philosophy or Ethics or Logic	3
Free Elective		3
		Credits
		16
Spring		
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (C2) Literature	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (H) Mathematics	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (K1) Social Science – American and European History	3
	Philosophy Value Theory area course 1	3

Free Elective		3
	Credits	15
Second Year		
Fall		
GENERAL EDUCATION: (G) Computer Science		3
GENERAL EDUCATION: (K2) Social Science – Global Cultural Perspectives		3
PHIL 264	Critical Reasoning and Arguments	3
PHIL elective course		3
Free Elective		3
	Credits	15
Spring		
GENERAL EDUCATION: (D) Fine and Performing Arts		3
GENERAL EDUCATION: (I) Natural Science Laboratory		4
World Cultures		3
Philosophy History area course		3
Free Elective		3
	Credits	16
Third Year		
Fall		
GENERAL EDUCATION: (L) Interdisciplinary Studies		3
Philosophy Value Theory area course 2		3
Traditions in Contemporary Philosophy area course		3
PHIL Elective course		3
Free Elective		3
	Credits	15
Spring		
GENERAL EDUCATION: (F1) Humanities – Great Works and Their Influences		3
World Language 1		3
Philosophy Knowledge and Reality area course 1		3
PHIL Elective course		3
Free Elective		3
	Credits	15
Fourth Year		
Fall		
World Language 2		3
Philosophy Knowledge and Reality area course 2		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
	Credits	15
Spring		
GENERAL EDUCATION: (J) Physical Education		1
PHIL 424	Seminar in Philosophy	3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
	Credits	13
	Total Credits	120