



Choose
UMSL

And your major.

Philosophy BA

Philosophy is about hard questions: Are we free? Is there a God? What is knowledge? What should I do with my life? In addressing these questions, philosophy develops your skills in thinking, analysis, writing, argumentation and critical reading. Studying philosophy makes you more open-minded: you'll encounter the ideas of people who have lived lives very different from yours, and you'll be impressed by them. Philosophy is enormously interesting and rewarding. If anyone ever asks you "why study philosophy" you'll answer "why haven't you started yet?"

Career Outlook

Major companies increasingly value the analytical thinking taught in philosophy programs, and philosophy majors consistently outperform other majors in standardized test scores (like, GRE, LSAT, MCAT) and mid-career earnings. Thus, a philosophy B.A. provides excellent preparation for many different careers.

An undergraduate philosophy major is an ideal choice for students interested in law school, bioethics careers, business school, and other professional degree programs.

Future Career Options

- Secondary and higher education teacher
- Non-profit professional/community affairs liaison
- Patient care advocate
- Human resources, employee relations, and benefits coordinator
- Lawyer / Paralegal
- Journalist
- Interpersonal consulting
- Mediation/conflict management
- Career counselor
- Human Rights officer
- Mental health counselor

Skills Developed by Degree Completion

- Read and engage critically with a broad range of historical and contemporary philosophy
- Understand moral theories and apply them to ethical and practical problems
- Understand methods and formal reasoning tools and apply them using research skills
- Apply philosophical concepts, analytical skills, and critical thinking to other disciplines
- Create, write, present, and defend own philosophical views clearly

Successful alumni have gone on to fulfill many of the opportunities above. Additional possibilities are taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Contact an advisor to discuss additional future career options.

4-YEAR ACADEMIC MAP

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Year

1

FALL SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

PHIL 1110: Western Philosophy I (3)
ENGL 1100: First-Year Writing (3)
GEN ED CORE: Mathematics Proficiency (3)
FGN LANG 1001: Language and Culture I (5)
INTDSC 1003: University Studies (1)

SPRING SEMESTER (17 credit hours)

PHIL 1111: Western Philosophy II (3)
FGN LANG 1002: Language and Culture II (5)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Social Sciences (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math & Life/Natural Sciences (3)
GEN ED CORE: Communication Proficiency (3)

Year

2

FALL SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

PHIL 1030: Present Moral Problems (3)
FGN LANG 2101: Language & Culture III (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math & Life/Natural Sciences (3)
GEN ED CORE: US History or Government (3)
GEN ED CORE: Information Literacy (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

PHIL 1160: Critical Thinking (3) or PHIL 3360: Formal Logic (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Social Sciences (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math & Life/Natural Sciences (3)
Cultural Diversity (3)
Elective (3)

Year

3

FALL SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

Choose PHIL 3340, PHIL 3378, or PHIL 3380 (3)
PHIL XXXX: Philosophy Elective (3)
ENGL 3100: Junior-Level Writing (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Social Sciences (3)
Elective (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

Choose PHIL 3340, PHIL 4440, or PHIL 4445 (3)
PHIL XXXX: Philosophy Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

Year

4

FALL SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

PHIL XXXX: Philosophy Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (13 credit hours)

PHIL 4XXX: Philosophy Capstone (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (1)


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Degree completed!

2023-2024

4-YEAR ACADEMIC MAP

This is a sample academic map for the courses to take each academic semester/session. ***This map is not a substitute for academic advisement.*** Contact your advisor when making final selections.



– University Studies

is required for all first-year students and those with less than 24 credit hours.



– Milestone courses

should be taken in the order shown to ensure you stay on a timely and accurate path toward graduation.



– Summer and Intersession courses Don't forget that summers and winter breaks are a way to fast-track your route to degree completion – and lighten your load during fall and spring!



Ready to be
an UMSL Triton?
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