PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

Philosophy involves reflection upon and understanding of all phases of human activity. Philosophy especially directs itself to the nature of knowledge and the most basic concepts of human understanding and value: morality, society, art and aesthetic experience, as well as science, politics, and religion. Philosophy is thus closely involved with other disciplines because, as human activities and quests for knowledge, they and their findings provide the material for philosophical inquiry. The courses offered by the department are designed to help students develop their own capacities to reflect intelligently on questions of fundamental and lasting significance. The philosophy major is intended to meet the needs of four types of students:

- those who wish to use philosophy as the organizing core of a liberal education;
- those who desire to study philosophy in preparation for graduate work in some other field, such as law, government, or theology;
- those who plan to major jointly in philosophy and one of the social and natural sciences or humanities; and
- those who have a professional interest in philosophy and intend to do graduate work in the subject.

HOW TO GET IN

Students should inform the Philosophy department of their intention to major by meeting with the Undergraduate Advisor.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext) section of the *Guide*.

General Education	• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B * * The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics	Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.
Foreign Language	• Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR • Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.
L&S Breadth	• 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.
Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	• 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	• 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

27 CREDITS AND 8 COURSES IN PHILOS

Code	Title	Credits
PHILOS 211	Elementary Logic	3-4
or PHILOS 511	Symbolic Logic	
PHILOS 430	History of Ancient Philosophy	3-4
PHILOS 432	History of Modern Philosophy	3-4
5 advanced PHILOS courses of at least 3 credits from below:		**15**
PHILOS 430	History of Ancient Philosophy	
PHILOS 432	History of Modern Philosophy	
PHILOS/JEWISH/ RELIG ST 435	Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century	
PHILOS 440	Existentialism	
PHILOS/ ENVIR ST 441	Environmental Ethics	
PHILOS 454	Classical Philosophers	
PHILOS 481	Junior Honors Seminar	
PHILOS 482	Junior Honors Seminar	
PHILOS/ RELIG ST 501	Philosophy of Religion	
PHILOS 502		
PHILOS 503	Theory of Knowledge	
PHILOS 504	Special Topics in the Theory of Knowledge	
PHILOS 506	Study Abroad in Philosophy	
PHILOS 511	Symbolic Logic	
PHILOS 512	Methods of Logic	
PHILOS 516	Language and Meaning	
PHILOS 520	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences	
PHILOS 521	Philosophy of the Social Sciences	
PHILOS 522	Special Topic	
PHILOS/ ENVIR ST 523	Philosophical Problems of the Biological Sciences	
PHILOS/ ECON 524	Philosophy and Economics	
PHILOS 530	Freedom Fate and Choice	
PHILOS 541	Modern Ethical Theories	
PHILOS 543	Special Topics in Ethics	
PHILOS 549	Great Moral Philosophers	
PHILOS/ ED POL 550	Philosophy of Moral Education	
PHILOS 551	Philosophy of Mind	
PHILOS 553	Aesthetics	
PHILOS 555	Political Philosophy	
PHILOS 556	Topics in Feminism and Philosophy	
PHILOS 557	Issues in Social Philosophy	
PHILOS 560	Metaphysics	
PHILOS 562	Special Topics in Metaphysics	
PHILOS 567	Topics in Contemporary Philosophy	
PHILOS/ MATH 571	Mathematical Logic	
PHILOS 581	Senior Honors Seminar	
PHILOS 582	Senior Honors Seminar	
Additional credits—if necessary—to achieve 27 for the major		*3*
Total Credits		**27**

DISTRIBUTION

Of the 27 credits, at least 1 course is required from each category ('Metaphysics and Epistemology' and 'Value Theory'):

Category 'Metaphysics and Epistemology' (complete one course):

Code	Title	Credits
PHILOS/ RELIG ST 501	Philosophy of Religion	3-4
PHILOS 503	Theory of Knowledge	3
PHILOS 504	Special Topics in the Theory of Knowledge (Bayesian Epistemology)	3
PHILOS 504	Special Topics in the Theory of Knowledge (Epistemic Ideals)	3
PHILOS 516	Language and Meaning	3
PHILOS 520	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences	3
PHILOS 530	Freedom Fate and Choice	3
PHILOS 551	Philosophy of Mind	3
PHILOS 560	Metaphysics	3
PHILOS 562	Special Topics in Metaphysics (Consciousness)	3
PHILOS 567	Topics in Contemporary Philosophy	3

Category 'Value Theory' (complete one course):

Code	Title	Credits
PHILOS 241	Introductory Ethics	3-4
PHILOS 454	Classical Philosophers (Aristotle's Ethics)	3
PHILOS 541	Modern Ethical Theories	3
PHILOS 549	Great Moral Philosophers	3
PHILOS 555	Political Philosophy	3

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all PHILOS courses and courses that count for the major
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level credits in the major, taken in residence[1]
- 15 credits in PHILOS, taken on campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Philosophy Major in consultation with the Philosophy undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Philosophy, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Minimum 3.300 University GPA
- Minimum a 3.500 GPA for all PHILOS and major courses
- One *additional* course from either the Metaphysics and Epistemology or Value Theory categories with a grade of B or better
- PHILOS 681 (for 1-3 credits) and PHILOS 682 (for 3 credits) with a grade of AB or better.[2]

FOOTNOTES

1

Courses between PHILOS 400–699 are considered upper-level in the major.

2

Students will not be permitted to write a Senior Honors Thesis unless they have taken at least one advanced course on the topic on which they will be writing. Credits earned by writing a Senior Honors Thesis will not count toward the 27 minimum credits required for the major.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Ability to think critically about arguments.
2. Ability to interpret complex texts accurately and analyze them logically.
3. Ability to communicate precisely and concisely in both writing and speech.
4. Familiarity with the history of Western philosophy and the major debates withing that tradition.
5. Ability to be engaged citizens who think carefully and well about their responsibilities to others.
6. Ability to exchange reasons about controversial matters respectfully and with the aim of uncovering the truth.
7. Interpretative charity and intellectual honesty, which includes appropriate attribution to others of their ideas, and recognition and frankness about the limitations of one's own ideas.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Communications A	3	Ethnic Sudies	3
PHILOS 101	3-4	Foreign Language (if needed)	4
PHILOS 210	3-4	I/A MATH, STAT or COMP SCI (for B.S. degree)	3
Physical Science Breadth	3	PHILOS 241	3-4
Foreign Language (if needed)	4	PHILOS 211 (Quantitative Reasoning B)	3-4
	14		**16**

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
PHILOS 430	3-4	Communication B	4
Literature Breadth	3	PHILOS 432	3-4
Social Science Breadth	4	I/A MATH, STAT, or COMP SCI (for B.S. degree)	3
INTER-LS 210	1	Social Science Breadth	4
Biological Science Breadth	3		
	15		**15**

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Metaphysics and Epistemology category course	3-4	Value Theory category course	3-4
Natural Science Breadth	3	PHILOS 400+ Electives	3-4
Literature Breadth	3	Electives	7
Electives	5		
	15		**15**

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
PHILOS Electives	3	PHILOS 500+ Electives	3

Electives	12 Electives	12
	15	**15**

Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING

The Department of Philosophy encourages our majors to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after arriving on campus. We partner with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science. Philosophy majors develop important and widely marketable skills, like the ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems. This means that having a major in philosophy provides excellent preparation for a variety of careers. See major declaration (https://philosophy.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program-2/major-declaration/) for more information.

Studying philosophy can also help you get into graduate school. Philosophy majors excel on standardized tests like the GRE, GMAT, and LSAT. They rank first among all majors on the verbal and the analytical section of the GRE. Philosophy majors also tend to do better than just about any other major on the LSAT. With a mean score of just over 157, they are second only to physics majors. When it comes to the GMAT, philosophy majors rank in the top five of all majors, and they consistently have higher scores than business majors (including management, finance, accounting, and marketing majors).

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (https://successworks.wisc.edu/) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/)
- Enroll in a Career Course (https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
  - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
  - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/)
  - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/)

PEOPLE

Professors Brighouse, Clatterbuck, Fletcher, Gibson, Goodrich, Gottlieb, Loets, Kelleher, Mackay, Masrour, Messina, Nadler, Roberts, Shafer-Landau, Shapiro, Sidelle, Southgate, Steinberg, Streiffer, Titelbaum, Vranas, Whittle, Zimmerman

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Philosophy has received generous support in order to fund two scholarships each academic year.

The **Charles Manthey Winter Philosophy Scholarship** is given to a major in philosophy who will graduate within the next four terms of the award and who has at least a 3.5 grade point average over the past two terms, and who can demonstrate financial need.

The **Colonel Jerome Ellis Goodrich, USMC (retired), Scholarship** is awarded to an undergraduate major in philosophy with academic merit and financial need, and who is a US citizen.

Applications for these scholarships are typically due in early April and winners are honored at our annual Awards Banquet in May.

We also have an annual paper prize called the **Temkin Undergraduate Essay Prize in Value Theory**. This prize recognizes an outstanding essay in value theory, where this is construed quite broadly to include topics in political philosophy, philosophy of law, metaethics, applied ethics, etc. Essays are typically submitted in early April and the winner is also honored at our Awards Banquet.

If you have any questions about these scholarships or essay prize, you may send an email to frontoffice@philosophy.wisc.edu.