Duluth Campus

Philosophy B.A.

Geography & Philosophy

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2023
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 30 to 39
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

This program familiarizes students with the broad range of foundational theories that arose in the history of philosophy and helps students develop problem-solving skills using critical thinking. Beginning courses provide a comprehensive introduction to the methods and procedures of analytical reasoning by examining issues concerning logic, the nature of knowledge and reality, the existence of freedom, and the character of right and wrong. Advanced courses focus on special historical periods (e.g., Greek philosophy, early modern philosophy) and specific problem areas (e.g., philosophy of psychology, medical ethics, philosophy of language).

Principles that emerge from the study of philosophy concern basic theories and concepts, and the nature of reasoning as it applies to all areas of investigation within the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. As a result, studying philosophy enhances all majors and minors.

Honors requirements: Candidates must be philosophy majors with a 3.30 GPA in the major. Students complete PHIL 5991 and write a substantial paper or significantly rewrite a paper submitted for another philosophy course. Students must notify the department head of their intent to participate in the honors program by the end of the first week of the semester of graduation and the paper must be approved by a faculty member at least 30 days before the end of the term. The paper is presented orally in a department colloquium with the approved manuscript submitted to the department head at least one week before presentation. Contact the department head for more information.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

General Requirements

The Board of Regents, on recommendation of the faculty, grants degrees from the University of Minnesota. Requirements for an undergraduate degree from University of Minnesota Duluth include the following:

1. Students must meet all course and credit requirements of the departments and colleges or schools in which they are enrolled including an advanced writing course. Students seeking two degrees must fulfill the requirements of both degrees. However, two degrees cannot be awarded for the same major.
2. Students must complete all requirements of the Liberal Education Program.
3. Students must complete a minimum of 120 semester credits.
4. At least 30 of the last 60 degree credits earned immediately before graduation must be awarded by UMD.
5. Students must complete at least half of their courses at the 3xxx-level and higher at UMD. Study-abroad credits earned through courses taught by UM faculty and at institutions with which UMD has international exchange programs may be used to fulfill this requirement.
6. If a minor is required, students must take at least three upper division credits in their minor field from UMD.
7. The minimum cumulative UM GPA required for graduation will be 2.00 and will include only University of Minnesota coursework. A minimum UM GPA of 2.00 is required in each UMD undergraduate major and minor. No academic unit may impose higher grade point standards to graduate.
8. Diploma, transcripts, and certification will be withheld until all financial obligations to the University have been met.

Program Requirements

1. A second field of study (e.g. minor, major, degree) is required for this major.

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2. Global experience is a UMD goal for all students and international study is encouraged. Talk with an academic or faculty advisor to explore academic options for fulfilling some of your degree requirements through study abroad.

Learning in Community (1 cr)
The Learning in Community requirement will be waived for transfer students with at least 30 credits taken post high school and for UMD students who started in a UMD program where this was not required. First-year students who have completed 30 PSEO credits may request a waiver to the students primary college.
UST 1000 - Learning in Community (1.0 - 2.0 cr)
or EHS 1000 - Into the World [GLOBAL PER] (3.0 cr)
or ES 1000 - Global Cultural Perspectives on Environmental Sustainability [GLOBAL PER] (3.0 cr)
or LING 1000 - Language and Culture in the U.S. What does it Mean to Speak American [CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)
or PSY 1100 - Living Your Best Life: Applying Positive Psychology [CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)

Advanced Writing (3 cr)
The advanced writing requirement may be satisfied with one additional PHIL 3xxx course.
WRIT 31xx or PHIL 3xxx (3 cr)

Core (8 cr)
Students are advised to register for PHIL 3900 at least two terms before they apply for their degree.
PHIL 1001 - Introduction to Philosophy [LE CAT7, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
PHIL 3900 - Colloquium for Majors (1.0 cr)
PHIL 4900 - Seminar in Philosophy (4.0 cr)

Program Sub-plans
Students are required to complete one of the following sub-plans.

General
Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
Required credits within the major: 30 - 32

This sub-plan emphasizes the history of philosophical thought and metaphysics and theory of knowledge.

General Core (4 cr)
PHIL 1018 - Logic [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)
Foundations in History of Philosophy (8 cr)
It is recommended that students take both PHIL 3301 and 3303.
Take one of the following courses:
PHIL 3301 - Greek Philosophy (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 3303 - The Birth of Modern Philosophy (4.0 cr)
Take one additional History of Philosophy course:
PHIL 3301 - Greek Philosophy (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 3303 - The Birth of Modern Philosophy (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 3319 - 19th Century Philosophy (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 3320 - 20th Century Philosophy (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 3421 - Eastern Philosophy (4.0 cr)
Electives (6-8 cr)
Alternative courses taken within the History of Philosophy Electives may apply here.
Take 2 or more course(s) from the following:
- AMIN 4410 - American Indian Philosophies [HUMANITIES, CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)
- PHIL 2001 - Existential Philosophy and the Arts [HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
- PHIL 2011 - Philosophy of Language [LE CAT3, SOC SCI] (3.0 cr)
- PHIL 2021 - Science and Pseudo-Science: Thinking about Weird Things [LE CAT8, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
- PHIL 3025 - Philosophy of Race and Racism [RACE JUST] (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 3195 - Special Topics: (Various Titles to be Assigned) (3.0 - 9.0 cr)
- PHIL 3222 - Medical Ethics (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 3231 - Law and Punishment (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 3242 - Values and Technology [LE CAT8, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
- PHIL 3245 - Philosophy of Art (3.0 cr)
- PHIL 3252 - Philosophy of Science (3.0 cr)
- PHIL 3281 - Ethical Theory (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 3291 - Current Social Political Philosophy (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 3325 - Environmental Ethics [HUMANITIES, SUSTAIN] (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 3570 - Philosophy of Psychology (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 3575 - Philosophy and Cognitive Science (3.0 cr)

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•PHIL 3655 - Theory of Knowledge (4.0 cr)
•PHIL 2xxx-3xxx
•**Optional Experience**
Take 0 - 3 credit(s) from the following:
•PHIL 5991 - Independent Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•PHIL 5997 - Intern Teaching Assistantship (2.0 cr)

Applied Ethics

Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
Required credits within the major: 38 - 39

This subplan familiarizes students with major ethical theories and their applications in a number of fields and work situations. Beginning courses provide a framework for ethical thinking and decision making from a variety of theoretical orientations, along with introductory applications to social problems. Advanced courses apply this thinking to complex issues generated within specific fields such as medicine, technology, and the environment.

Principles that emerge from the study of applied ethics can complement a variety of majors and minors, as well as enhance students' moral education and theoretical literacy for handling ethical problems that may emerge in a variety of careers and leadership roles in law, politics, and service organizations.

Students choose upper division electives from other disciplines to shape the major to their specific interests and post-baccalaureate plans.

Applied Ethics Core (11 cr)
PHIL 1003 - Ethics and Society [LE CAT8, LEIP CAT08, HUMANITIES, CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)
PHIL 3281 - Ethical Theory (4.0 cr)
PHIL 3291 - Current Social Political Philosophy (4.0 cr)
Critical Thinking and Logic (4 cr)
PHIL 1008 - Critical Thinking [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 1018 - Logic [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)
History of Philosophy (4 cr)
PHIL 3301 - Greek Philosophy (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 3303 - The Birth of Modern Philosophy (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 3421 - Eastern Philosophy (4.0 cr)
Foundations in Applied Ethics (7-8 cr)
Take 2 or more course(s) from the following:
•PHIL 3025 - Philosophy of Race and Racism [RACE JUST] (4.0 cr)
•PHIL 3222 - Medical Ethics (4.0 cr)
•PHIL 3231 - Law and Punishment (4.0 cr)
•PHIL 3242 - Values and Technology [LE CAT8, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
•PHIL 3325 - Environmental Ethics [HUMANITIES, SUSTAIN] (4.0 cr)

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