Duluth Campus

Philosophy B.A.

Geography & Philosophy

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2019
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 31 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 (either a minor, another major or dual degree).

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2) Majors with sub-plans must be declared through the CLA Advising & Academic Services office.
3) Study abroad is encouraged for all students and the department makes every effort to facilitate such experiences.
4) PHIL 3900 - Colloquium for Majors. Students attend 12 department approved philosophy lectures/discussions over a 4-year period and register for PHIL 3900 only during the semester they attend their 12th lecture; contact the department for details.

First Term Requirement (1 cr)
Transfer students with 24 or more credits and current UMD students who change colleges to CLA are exempt from this requirement.
New first-year students with 24 or more PSEO credits may request to be waived from this requirement.
UST 1000 - Learning in Community (1.0 - 2.0 cr)

Advanced Writing Requirement (3 cr)
The advanced writing requirement may be satisfied with one additional PHIL 3xxx course for at least 3 cr.
Take one of the following:
WRIT 31xx or PHIL 3xxx (3 cr)

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

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

Core (12 cr)
PHIL 1001 - Introduction to Philosophy [LE CAT7, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
PHIL 1018 - Logic [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)
PHIL 3900 - Colloquium for Majors (1.0 cr)
PHIL 4900 - Seminar in Philosophy (4.0 cr)

History of Philosophy Electives (8 cr)
Students are required to take 3301 OR 3303, and at least one additional course from the list below. It is recommended that students take both 3301 and 3303, and either 3319 or 3320.

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 Hist of Phil 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 (7-8 cr)
Alternative courses taken within the History of Philosophy Electives may apply here. Most PHIL 1xxx-3xxx level courses apply here. (Three different elective courses listed may satisfy this requirement, but at least two of the courses must be at the 2xxx level or above. PHIL 5991 can contribute no more than a maximum of 3 credits towards this requirement. If a student is taking PHIL 5991 to meet Departmental Honors, those credits can also apply towards this elective requirement.)
Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:
•PHIL 1003 - Ethics and Society [LE CAT8, LEIP CAT08, HUMANITIES, CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)
•PHIL 1005 - Philosophy through Dialogue and Debate [COMM & LAN] (3.0 cr)
•PHIL 1007 - Philosophy and World Religions [LE CAT7, LEIP CAT07, HUMANITIES, GLOBAL PER] (3.0 cr)
•PHIL 1008 - Critical Thinking [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)
•PHIL 1021 - Classical Mythology [LE CAT9, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
•PHIL 1025 - Introduction to Cognitive Science [NAT SCI] (3.0 cr)

•Required Upper Division Electives
Take 2 or more course(s) totaling 7 or more credit(s) from the following:
•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)

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- 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)
- PHIL 3655 - Theory of Knowledge (4.0 cr)
- PHIL 5991 - Independent Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- PHIL 5997 - Intern Teaching Assistantship (2.0 cr)

Applied Ethics

This emphasis 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 postbaccalaureate plans.

Lower Division Core (10 cr)

PHIL 1001 - Introduction to Philosophy [LE CAT7, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
PHIL 1003 - Ethics and Society [LE CAT8, LEIP CAT08, HUMANITIES, CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)
PHIL 1008 - Critical Thinking [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)
or PHIL 1018 - Logic [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)

Upper Division Core (13 cr)

PHIL 3281 - Ethical Theory (4.0 cr)
PHIL 3900 - Colloquium for Majors (1.0 cr)
PHIL 4900 - Seminar in Philosophy (4.0 cr)
PHIL 3291 - Current Social Political Philosophy (4.0 cr)
or POL 3600 - Political Concepts (3.0 cr)

History of Philosophy Elective (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)

Upper Division Application Areas (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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