# PHILOSOPHY (BA)

**CIP:** 38.0101

## Program Description

Philosophy—perhaps the oldest academic discipline—explores enduring fundamental questions about the world and our place in it: What is the ultimate nature of reality? What really exists, and what is mere appearance? What, if anything, can we genuinely know? How are our conscious minds related to our physical bodies? What is value, and which values should we adopt? What makes for a good or valuable life? Are we ever responsible for the actions we perform, or are we merely victims of our environment and our genetic inheritance? How should societies be organized? How should we understand the relationship between science and religion, or between reason and faith?

Such questions are not the inventions of philosophers, of course. Many of us ponder them as children. Yet later we come to ignore them—or simply accept answers to them unreflectively. Philosophers, though, strive to keep pondering, and to address these questions as thoroughly as possible through reasoned discussion and argument.

By engaging in this process, philosophers illuminate aspects of the world that people routinely take for granted: phenomena such as perception, causation, consciousness, meaning, and obligation structure our lives and our practices in ways we rarely notice or pause to consider. We are everywhere guided by unexamined assumptions about truth, knowledge, reality, goodness, beauty, freedom, and justice. Philosophy lays bare these assumptions and then analyzes and questions them. And so those who aspire to live reflective lives cannot help but be gripped by philosophical inquiry. For them, philosophy is essential.

The aim of the Philosophy Program at NYU Abu Dhabi is to introduce students to a broad range of philosophical problems, to acquaint students with influential philosophical responses to these problems, and above all to train students to grapple with these problems themselves in a way that meets the highest intellectual standards.

Many philosophical problems have been studied, in many different places, for thousands of years; others have arisen only with more recent developments in science or culture. Today philosophy has become a fully global discipline. The Philosophy Program at NYU Abu Dhabi strives to integrate the study of contemporary international philosophy with an understanding of philosophy's rich multicultural history. The Philosophy major prepares students for advanced study in philosophy or related fields, as well as for any profession that requires rigorous and cogent thinking, reasoned argumentation, and clear and persuasive writing. Most importantly, the study of philosophy prepares students for a more reflective and examined life—one of deepened awareness and understanding.

The major in Philosophy consists of ten courses. All students should begin with an Introductory Elective. Satisfactory completion of an Introductory Elective is a prerequisite for all of the other courses required for the major, except Logic courses. Students who are considering a Philosophy major should also take PHIL-UH 1810 Introduction to Logic as early as possible—preferably before the end of their sophomore year. Students who choose to double major in Philosophy and another discipline, and who choose to complete their Capstone project in that other discipline must still complete ten Philosophy courses. Instead of the two-semester Capstone Project in Philosophy, these students may

elect any two additional Philosophy courses (other than Introductory Electives).

## Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU.  For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html).

## Program Requirements

| Course | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| **General Education Requirements** | | |
| Colloquia | | 8 |
| First-Year Seminar | | 4 |
| Arts, Design, and Technology | | 4 |
| Cultural Exploration Analysis | | 4 |
| Data and Discovery | | 4 |
| Structures of Thought and Society | | 4 |
| January Term Courses (3 courses) | | 12 |
| **Required Courses** | | |
| Select one Introductory Elective | | 4 |
| PHIL-UH 1810 | Introduction to Logic | 4 |
| Select one History of Philosophy Elective | | 4 |
| Select one Theoretical Philosophy Elective | | 4 |
| Select one Practical Philosophy Elective | | 4 |
| Select one Advanced Seminar | | 4 |
| Select two additional Philosophy courses [1] | | 8 |
| **Capstone** | | |
| PHIL-UH 4000 | Capstone Project | 4 |
| PHIL-UH 4001 | Capstone Project | 4 |
| Other Elective Credits | | 60 |
| **Total Credits** | | **140** |

[1]

No more than two introductory electives can count toward the major in Philosophy.

## Sample Plan of Study

| Course | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| **1st Semester/Term** | | |
| Introductory Elective | | 4 |
| Colloquium | | 4 |
| Core | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| **2nd Semester/Term** | | |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 4 |
| **3rd Semester/Term** | | |
| Philosophy Elective | | 4 |
| First-Year Writing Seminar | | 4 |
| Core | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |

| 4th Semester/Term | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PHIL-UH 1810 | Introduction to Logic | 4 |
| Core | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 5th Semester/Term | | |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 4 |
| 6th Semester/Term | | |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| Core | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 7th Semester/Term | | |
| Philosophy Elective | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| Philosophy Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 8th Semester/Term | | |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 4 |
| 9th Semester/Term | | |
| Philosophy Elective | | 4 |
| Colloquium | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| Advanced Seminar | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 10th Semester/Term | | |
| PHIL-UH 4000 | Capstone Project | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| Philosophy Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 11th Semester/Term | | |
| PHIL-UH 4001 | Capstone Project | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| General Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| n/a | | |
| History of Philosophy | | 4 |
| Theoretical Philosophy Electives | | 4 |
| Practical Philosophy Electives | | 4 |
| | Credits | 12 |
| | Total Credits | 152 |

# Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the NYU Abu Dhabi Philosophy degree, all graduates are expected to have developed:

1. The ability to examine and analyze central questions in the range of philosophical areas, including practical philosophy, focusing on fundamental issues in ethics and politics; theoretical philosophy, focusing on fundamental questions in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of science; and the global history of philosophy from ancient to modern times

2. An understanding of the most important arguments and theories that have been offered in response to central philosophical problems, taken both from the history of philosophy and from "cutting edge" work by contemporary philosophers, as well as some familiarity with the virtues and problems associated with those respective arguments and theories

3. The ability recognize and articulate a philosophical puzzle or question that can be explicated, explored, and at least tentatively answered in an essay or paper

4. Analytic and reasoning skills, including the ability to formulate problems clearly, to arrive at philosophical positions through an informed and self-reliant process of reasoning, and to argue for these positions in an informed and self-reliant way

5. Proficiency with propositional and first-order symbolic logic and the corresponding ability to apply the tools of symbolic logic to appropriate philosophical questions and arguments

6. The ability to present philosophical arguments in rhetorically efficient forms—both written and oral—manifesting cogent reasoning, clarity of expression, and organizational skill

7. A specialization in one particular field of philosophical inquiry resulting in the production of a senior Capstone project

8. Sufficient expertise to compete effectively for places at elite doctoral programs in Philosophy in the U.S. and around the world.

# Policies
## NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/).

## NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/).