

PHILOSOPHY (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/philosophy/>)

NYSED: 08295 **HEGIS:** 1509.00 **CIP:** 38.0101

Program Description

Philosophy poses general questions about reality, knowledge, reasoning, language, and conduct. Some areas include metaphysics (What is the ultimate nature of reality? What really exists and what is mere appearance?), epistemology (What, if anything, can be known and how?), logic (What are the principles of correct reasoning?), and ethics (What is moral value? And what moral values should we adopt?). Other areas address questions concerning the nature of art, law, medicine, mind, politics, religion, and the sciences.

Everyone tends to have or assume answers to these questions. The aim of the department is to enable students to identify, clarify, and assess these answers, both ancient and modern. Philosophy prepares students for a more reflective life, for advanced studies in the subject, and for professions that emphasize analytic thinking and argumentation, such as law, business, and programming.

Independent Study

A student may register for an independent study course (PHIL-UA 301, 302; 2 or 4 credit per term) if they obtain the consent of a faculty member who approves the study project and agrees to serve as adviser. The student must also obtain the approval of either the department chair or the director of undergraduate studies. The student may take no more than one such course in any given semester and no more than two such courses in total, unless granted special permission by either the department chair or the director of undergraduate studies.

Honors Program

Students majoring in philosophy may apply to the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) for admission to the departmental honors program. Eligibility criteria are listed below. Honors in philosophy will be awarded to philosophy majors who successfully complete the honors program with a GPA of 3.65 or higher both in philosophy and overall. The honors program requires at least eleven courses in philosophy (44 credits). These courses must (1) satisfy the requirements for the major and (2) include both PHIL-UA 201 Junior Honors Proseminar and PHIL-UA 202 Senior Honors Thesis Workshop. (For purposes of the major requirements, one of these two courses may be counted as an elective.) Together, the two honors courses constitute a two-semester honors thesis capstone experience. Students must be accepted into the honors program before taking PHIL-UA 201 Junior Honors Proseminar in the spring of the junior year; PHIL-UA 202 Senior Honors Thesis Workshop is then taken in the fall of the senior year. Students who wish to join the honors program and to study away from New York in their junior year should consult early on with the DUS to find a suitable arrangement.

Eligibility Criteria for admission to PHIL-UA 201 Junior Honors Proseminar:

- Minimum 3.65 GPA in the philosophy major and overall
- At least five courses in philosophy, including at least two straight A's in philosophy courses above intro level not including PHIL-UA 70 Logic
- A writing sample: a paper written for a class, with the instructor's grade and comments

- A list of the professors and TA's who have taught your courses
- Applications are due by email to the DUS two weeks before registration for the Spring semester of Junior Year

Eligibility Criteria for admission to PHIL-UA 202 Senior Honors Thesis Workshop:

- Enrollment in PHIL-UA 201 Junior Honors Proseminar
- A one page thesis proposal
- A note from a professor in the philosophy department who has reviewed your proposal and agreed to supervise your thesis
- Applications are due to the DUS one week before registration for the Fall semester of Senior Year

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		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Major Requirements		
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 1	Central Problems in Philosophy	
PHIL-UA 2		
PHIL-UA 3	Ethics and Society	
PHIL-UA 4	Life and Death	
PHIL-UA 5	Minds and Machines	
PHIL-UA 6	Global Ethics	
PHIL-UA 7	Consciousness	
PHIL-UA 8	Philosophical Approaches to Race and Racism	
PHIL-UA 70	Logic	4
PHIL-UA 20	Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy	4
PHIL-UA 21	Early Modern European Philosophy	4
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 40	Ethics	
PHIL-UA 41	The Nature of Values	
PHIL-UA 45	Political Philosophy	
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 76	Epistemology	
PHIL-UA 78	Metaphysics	
PHIL-UA 90	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL-UA 80	Philosophy of Mind	4

or PHIL-UA 85 Philosophy of Language	
Select one of the following:	4
PHIL-UA 101 Topics in The History of Philosophy	
PHIL-UA 102 Topics in Ethics & Pol Philosophy	
PHIL-UA 103 Topics in Metaphysics & Epistemology	
PHIL-UA 104 Topics in Language & Mind	
Select two courses from any departmental offerings, except introductory courses	8
Electives	
Other Elective Credits	40
Total Credits	128

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The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

All students must begin with one (and only one) of the introductory courses. Satisfactory completion of any one course at the introductory level is a prerequisite for all of the other courses required for the major, except Logic. It is recommended that those considering a major take Logic as soon as possible.

No credit toward the major is awarded for a course with a grade lower than C. Courses graded Pass/Fail do not count.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 1	Central Problems in Philosophy	
PHIL-UA 2		
PHIL-UA 3	Ethics and Society	
PHIL-UA 4	Life and Death	
PHIL-UA 5	Minds and Machines	
PHIL-UA 6	Global Ethics	
PHIL-UA 7	Consciousness	
PHIL-UA 8	Philosophical Approaches to Race and Racism	
Foreign Language		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
PHIL-UA 70	Logic	4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Foreign Language		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
PHIL-UA 20	Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy	4
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 40	Ethics	
PHIL-UA 41	The Nature of Values	
PHIL-UA 45	Political Philosophy	
Foreign Language		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
PHIL-UA 21	Early Modern European Philosophy	4

Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 76	Epistemology	
PHIL-UA 78	Metaphysics	
PHIL-UA 90	Philosophy of Science	
Foreign Language		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Credits		16

5th Semester/Term		
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 80	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL-UA 85	Philosophy of Language ¹	
Physical Science		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
Credits		16

6th Semester/Term		
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 101	Topics in The History of Philosophy	
PHIL-UA 102	Topics in Ethics & Pol Philosophy	
PHIL-UA 103	Topics in Metaphysics & Epistemology	
PHIL-UA 104	Topics in Language & Mind	
Life Science		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
Credits		16

7th Semester/Term		
Major Elective 1 of 2 ²		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
Credits		16

8th Semester/Term		
Major Elective 2 of 2 ¹		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		128

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The prerequisites for PHIL-UA 85 are one introductory course chosen from PHIL-UA 1 through 8 and PHIL-UA 70.

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Chosen from any departmental offerings, except introductory courses.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. The ability to think rigorously and probingly about the nature of the world and our place in it.
2. The skills to explain, develop, and defend their ideas with depth, clarity, and argumentative rigor, both orally and in writing.
3. A broad knowledge and understanding of the main areas of academic philosophy, from Ancient Greek philosophy to the present day.
4. Proficiency in formal logic.

Policies

NYU Policies

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

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).