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.

Honors Program 2025-2026

Students majoring in Philosophy may apply to the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) for admission to the departmental honors program. Honors in Philosophy will be awarded to majors who successfully complete the honors program with a GPA of 3.65 or higher both in philosophy and overall. The program requires at least eleven courses in philosophy (44 credits). These courses must (1) satisfy all requirements for the major and (2) include both PHIL-UA 201 Honors Proseminar and PHIL-UA 202 Senior Honors Thesis Workshop. (One of these two courses may count as a major elective.) Students must be accepted into the honors program before taking PHIL-UA 201 Honors Proseminar in the spring of junior year; PHIL-UA 202 Senior Honors Thesis Workshop is then taken in the fall of their senior year. Students who intend to both join the honors program and study away in junior year must consult early on with the DUS for a suitable arrangement.

Note: Beginning in academic year 2026-2027, the honors program timeline will shift to run fall to spring of senior year, rather than from spring of junior year to fall of senior year as it is presently. The first honors seminar (currently the Junior Honors Proseminar) will be taken in the fall of the senior year, and the second honors seminar (currently the Senior Honors Thesis Workshop) will be taken in the spring of the senior year. Admission to the honors program for the class graduating in spring 2027 will be in spring 2026, and a Junior Honors Proseminar will not be offered in spring 2026.

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

- Minimum 3.65 GPA in the Philosophy major and overall
- At least five courses in philosophy completed by time of application, including at least two full A's in philosophy courses above the introductory level but not including PHIL-UA 70 Logic
- A paper written for a PHIL-UA course, with the instructor's grade and comments
- A list of the professors and TA's who have taught each student's courses

- Students who meet most but not all of these requirements may still apply, with admission at the discretion of the DUS depending on space
- Applications are due 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 Honors Proseminar
- A one page thesis proposal and a note from a professor in the philosophy department who has reviewed the proposal and agreed to supervise the thesis, both due to the DUS one week before registration for the fall semester
- A one-page outline of the proposed thesis project, due to the convenor of the Senior Honors Thesis Workshop by August 15.

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

The major in Philosophy requires ten 4-credit courses (40 credits) as outlined below.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	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		
Introductory Course Requirement		
Select one, and only one, of the following introductory courses:		4
PHIL-UA 1	Central Problems in Philosophy	
PHIL-UA 2	Great Works in Philosophy	
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	
Logic Requirement		
PHIL-UA 70	Logic	4
Ancient Greek and Roman Requirement		
PHIL-UA 20	Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy	4
Early Modern European Requirement		
PHIL-UA 21	Early Modern European Philosophy	4

Ethics, Nature of Values, or Political Philosophy Requirement		
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 40	Ethics	
PHIL-UA 41	The Nature of Values	
PHIL-UA 45	Political Philosophy	
Epistemology, Metaphysics, or Philosophy of Science Requirement		
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 76	Epistemology	
PHIL-UA 78	Metaphysics	
PHIL-UA 90	Philosophy of Science	
Philosophy of Mind or Philosophy of Language Requirement		
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 80	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL-UA 85	Philosophy of Language	
Topics Requirement		
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	
Major Electives Requirement		
Select two additional PHIL-UA courses, except introductory courses (which are numbered 1 through 8)		8
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		40
Total Credits		**128**

[1] 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.

Note: Students may take only one introductory course (numbered 1 through 8) in philosophy.

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	Great Works in Philosophy	
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 as Inquiry	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	
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 [1]		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**

[1] 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

Program Policies

Grading Policy

No credit toward the major is granted for a course with a grade lower than C.

Pass/Fail Courses

Courses graded Pass/Fail also do not count.

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/).