
The Department of Philosophy offers a major in Philosophy within the Bachelor of Arts degree, as well as a minor in Philosophy. The study of philosophy can serve many useful purposes, but perhaps the most important are:

Training in philosophy helps one think more clearly, more perceptively, and more effectively. Regardless of one's personal and occupational goals, and regardless of the projects in which one is interested, being able to think clearly and effectively about them is important. Americans today switch careers (not just jobs) two to three times on average over their lives. More than ever it is important to have the learning, critical thinking, and analytical skills that philosophy provides to be able to transition between different professions.

The study of philosophy uniquely helps one to better understand and appreciate oneself, the world outside, and how the two are related. In order to live a happy and fulfilled life, it is important to make sense of life and one's place in it. The satisfaction of that need is at the core of philosophy.

A major in Philosophy will provide strong preparation for a variety of careers, particularly careers in K-12 teaching, business, law, medicine, public policy, the ministry, and college teaching. A minor in Philosophy will provide excellent support for majors in numerous fields, including history, government, English, psychology, sociology, math and certain areas of science and business administration.

A – GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS

Students must fulfill the General Education Core requirements.

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 78 HOURS (51 advanced)

1 – Philosophy Core – 21 hours (12 advanced minimum)

Within the Philosophy Core and Philosophy Electives section, Sole Philosophy Majors must complete a total of 30 hours in advanced Philosophy; Double-Majors/Minors must complete a total of 24 hours in advanced Philosophy.

a – Philosophy Foundation – 15 hours (12 advanced)

PHIL 1340 Introduction to Logic (or PHIL 1388 Honors)

PHIL 3301 Ancient Philosophy

PHIL 3303 Modern Philosophy (1600-1800)

Choose one:

PHIL 4310 Epistemology

PHIL 4312 Metaphysics

PHIL 4380 Senior Seminar

b – Value Theory – 3 hours

Choose from:

PHIL 1310 Ethics, Happiness, and the Good Life

PHIL 1312 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy

PHIL 1330 Philosophy, Art, and Film

PHIL 1360 Understanding Society and Politics

PHIL 2320 Professional Ethics

PHIL 2322 Professional Ethics: Biomedical

PHIL 2324 Professional Ethics: Business

PHIL 2326 Ethics, Technology, and Society

PHIL 2328 Environmental Ethics

PHIL 3330 Aesthetics/Philosophy of Art

PHIL 4302 Special Topics in Applied Ethics

PHIL 4320 Moral Theory

PHIL 4322 Social and Political Philosophy

c – Diversity and Pluralism in Philosophy – 3 hours

Choose from:

RELS 1304 Introduction to World Religions

PHIL 1305 Introduction to Latin American Philosophy

PHIL 1306 Introduction to Asian Philosophy

PHIL 1362 Race, Sexuality, and Class

RELS 2350 Introduction to Religious Literature

PHIL 3360 Feminist Theories

PHIL 3365 Chicana and Latin American Feminisms

PHIL 4305 Special Topics in Latin American Philosophy

2 – Tracks – 57 hours (33 advanced minimum)

Choose one track:

a – Philosophy Major – 57 hours (33 advanced)

i – Philosophy Electives – 21 hours (12 advanced minimum)

Choose 21 hours of Philosophy, of which at least 12 hours must be advanced.

ii – Free Electives – 36 hours (12 advanced minimum)

b – Double Major or Minor – 57 hours (33 advanced)

i – Philosophy Electives – 15 hours (6 advanced minimum)

Choose 15 hours of Philosophy, of which at least 6 hours must be advanced.

ii – Double-Major or Minor – 42 hours (18 advanced minimum)

Credit hours should be used to attain minor and/or second major in a different discipline. After earning enough credit hours for a minor and/or second major in a different discipline, students may choose advanced Philosophy courses, a second minor, or use as advanced electives in other disciplines.

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 120 HOURS

TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS – 51 HOURS

ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:

Graduation requirements

1. Students must complete a Senior Seminar prior to graduation.
2. In addition to the graduation requirements listed in the UTRGV 2015-2017 Undergraduate Catalog, demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English is required at the undergraduate level equivalent to a minimum of six credit hours. Proficiency can be demonstrated by a college credit exam, a placement test approved through the UTRGV Department of Writing and Language Studies, and/or up to six credit hours of college-level language coursework.