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.

PHILOSOPHY (BA)
*Double Major or Minor Track
Catalog: 2019-20
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**FIRST YEAR**

**SECOND YEAR**

**THIRD YEAR**

**FOURTH YEAR**

**Contact Info**

Department Chair
Dr. Greg Gilson
Gregory.Gilson@utrgv.edu

Department Office
956 665-3561
Maria.Cano01@utrgv.edu

**Degree Info**

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**FIRST YEAR**
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
- Attend a diversiﬁed campus or community event (e.g., MLK Day of Service).
- Attend an academic program such as a Philosophy club or Majors/Minor’s meeting.
- Join a student organization! Consider looking into the Philosophy Club or Ethics Bowl or visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
- Look at study abroad opportunities!
- Check out a cultural campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
- Join another student organization. Perhaps participate in Ethics Bowl or visit VLink for options.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch—bring a friend!

**SECOND YEAR**
- To ﬁnd undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Ofﬁce.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Take an intensive writing course or become the secretary for your organization.
- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference.
- Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Seek out research opportunities within your major and join a professional organization such as Pikes.
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.
- Apply for internship and/or job shadowing opportunities. Discuss this with your advisor, faculty mentor, or Career Center.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or at and undergraduate philosophy conference.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the ﬁeld you aspire to work in.
- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffiﬁng agencies, etc, The Career Center can help.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5.
- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center!
- Register for PHIL 4380: Senior Seminar.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for full-time employment.
- Engage in an independent study project or an academic internship to complement your major, such as PHIL 4398: Independent Research or Study or PHIL 4399: Internship.
- Discuss future plans with your faculty mentor or advisor that includes employment, ﬁnances, and other life goals.
- Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center to ensure you are on track.

**GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- Look for a service-learning course for guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Ofﬁce.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Visit a faculty member during their ofﬁce hours and ask a question about class, the Philosophy Major and your vocational goals.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Take MATH in your ﬁrst year.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as PHIL 1340: Introduction to Logic.
- Complete 30 credit hours.

**LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- Check out the Philosophy department website for postings on career/graduate school.
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks’ advance notice!
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visit the program admissions webpage and speak with Philosophy faculty. Most do not accept late applicants!
- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
- Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
- Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni events, websites and continued access to Career Center services!
- Remember to do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

**MILESTONES**
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5.
- Complete 30 credit hours.

**ADVICE & SUPPORT**
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring any course or major/Minor’s questions you have.
- Visit a faculty member during their ofﬁce hours and ask a question about class, the Philosophy Major and your vocational goals.
- Classes ﬁll up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the ﬁrst day for your group.
- Cold or ﬂu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free ofﬁce visits.
- Visit the Career Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your ﬁrst year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5.

**APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN**
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger for a job on Handshake!
- Perform better than those who work off campus. Look into positions to do some job shadowing.
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center and ask about the ﬁeld you aspire to work in.
- Visit a faculty member during their ofﬁce hours and ask a question about class, the Philosophy Major and your vocational goals.
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your ﬁrst year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Take MATH in your ﬁrst year.

**CAREERS**
- Teaching
- Research
- Medical/Environmental
- Bioethics
- Environmental
- Law-related
- Colleges and universities
- Professional or graduate schools, including medical
- Adult education programs
- Vocational-technical educational programs

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFO, VISIT THE CAREER CENTER WEBSITE AND CHECK OUT “WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR?”**
www.utrgv.edu/careercenter