

PHILOSOPHY: PRE-LAW

Degree: B.A., Philosophy and Religious Studies

Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion (<https://cas.umw.edu/clpr/>)

The discipline of philosophy has been shaped by an intellectual and historical tradition that began some 2500 years ago in Greek culture. "Philosophy" literally means "love of wisdom." It is the systematic study of ideas and issues, a reasoned pursuit of fundamental truths, a quest for a comprehensive understanding of the world, a study of principles of conduct, and much more.

The problems and materials of philosophy are drawn from every aspect of our lives and experience, and its deliberations extend to every subject admitting of disciplined reflection. Students majoring in philosophy will develop knowledge of the history and current state of Western philosophy, critical areas of Asian philosophy, a grasp of representative philosophical issues and ways of dealing with them, a capacity to apply philosophical methods to intellectual problems, and a sense of how philosophy bears on other disciplines and on human life more generally. A philosophy major, leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies, develops a critical mind, a balance of analytic and interpretive abilities, and a capacity for the imaginative development of abstract formulations and their concrete applications. These virtues make philosophy especially good preparation for responsible citizenship and positions of leadership.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will develop the skills required to analyze and construct arguments in the discipline of Philosophy.
2. Students will develop the ability to communicate philosophical insight in writing.
3. Students will identify and develop a specific philosophical thesis and conduct and present research.

Major Requirements

Students wishing to major in Philosophy may choose from two concentrations: the Philosophy major, or the Pre-Law Concentration in Philosophy, which offers special preparation for students considering a career in law or related fields.

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 151B	Introductory Logic	3
PHIL 201	Ancient Greek Philosophy	3
PHIL 202	Early Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law I	3
PHIL 325	Philosophy of Law II	3
PHIL 485	Research in Philosophy	3
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 301	Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 302	Hume And Kant	
PHIL 303	Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche	
Select one Ethics course of the following:		3
PHIL 160	Introduction to Ethics	
PHIL 225	Practical Ethics	
PHIL 226	Medical Ethics	

PHIL 330	Environmental Ethics	
PHIL 335	Ethical Theory	
Select one Continental Philosophy course of the following:		3
PHIL 212	Aesthetics	
PHIL 251	Philosophy and Technology	
PHIL 342	Phenomenology	
PHIL 343	Existentialism	
PHIL 344	Critical Theory	
PHIL 450	Seminar in Twentieth Century Philosophy	
Select one non-Western course of the following:		3
PHIL 283	Hinduism	
PHIL 284	Buddhism	
PHIL 440	Studies in Asian and Comparative Philosophy	
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 499	Internship	
BLAW 201	Legal Environment of Business	
ECON 342	Law and Economics	
HIST 416	American Legal History	
PHIL 110	Introduction to Law	
PSCI 422	American Civil Liberties	
RELG 305	Religion and Politics in the United States	
SOCG 415	The Sociology of Law	
Total Credits		33

Majors in Philosophy with an interest in graduate studies should take courses beyond the minimum required for the major, and they are especially urged to achieve competence in Greek, Latin, French or German. Students with a 3.5 GPA in Philosophy (and 3.25 overall) are eligible for Honors contingent on a grade of A in PHIL 485 Research in Philosophy and successful oral defense.

General Education Requirements

The general education requirements for Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degrees (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-arts-bachelor-science-degrees/>) apply to all students who are seeking to earn an undergraduate B.A., B.S. or B.S.Ed. degree.

Students seeking a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree have a separate set of BLS general education requirements (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-liberal-studies-degrees/>).

Electives

Elective courses are those that are not needed to fulfill a general education requirement or major program requirement but are chosen by the student to complete the 120 credits required for graduation with a B.A./B.S./B.S.Ed. degree or the BLS degree. These courses may be taken graded or pass/fail (or S/U in the case of physical education and 100-level dance). No student in a regular B.A./B.S./B.S.Ed. program may count more than 60 credits in a single discipline toward the 120 credits required for graduation.

Total Credits Required for the Degree: 120 credits

Plan of Study

This suggested plan of study should serve as a guide to assist students when planning their course selections. It is not a substitute for a student's Degree Evaluation or the Program Requirements listed for this major in the catalog. Academic planning is the student's responsibility, and course selections should be finalized only after speaking with an advisor. Students should familiarize themselves with the catalog in effect at the time they matriculated at the University of Mary Washington. Students should also familiarize themselves with general education requirements (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/>) which can be fulfilled through general electives as well as major/minor course requirements. Course requirements and sequencing may vary with AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge or previous coursework, transfer courses, or other conditions. To be considered full-time, an undergraduate student must be enrolled in 12 or more credits for the semester.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Fall		
FSEM 100	First-Year Seminar	3
PHIL 160	Introduction to Ethics	3
General Education Courses		9
Credits		15
Spring		
PHIL 110	Introduction to Law	3
PHIL 151B	Introductory Logic	3
General Education Courses		9
Credits		15
Sophomore		
Fall		
PHIL 201	Ancient Greek Philosophy	3
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law I	3
General Education Courses		9
Credits		15
Spring		
PHIL 202	Early Modern Philosophy	3
General Education Courses or Electives		12
Credits		15
Junior		
Fall		
PHIL 212	Aesthetics	3
PHIL 325	Philosophy of Law II	3
General Education Courses or Electives		9
Credits		15
Spring		
PHIL 303 or PHIL 302 or PHIL 301	Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche or Hume And Kant or Medieval Philosophy	3
General Electives		12
Credits		15
Senior		
Fall		
PHIL 284	Buddhism	3
Elecive in Major		3
General Electives		9
Credits		15
Spring		
PHIL 485	Research in Philosophy	3

General Electives	12
Credits	15
Total Credits	120

Classics, Philosophy, and Religion Faculty

Laura H. Mentore, Chair
 Jason P. Matzke, Career and Pre-Law Advisor (Philosophy)
 Mary Beth Mathews, Career Advisor (Religion)

Professors

Mary Beth Mathews (Religion)
 Jason P. Matzke (Philosophy)
 Angela L. Pitts (Classics)

Associate Professors

Jennifer A. Barry (Religion)

Assistant Professors

Kalpesh Bhatt (Religion)

Senior Lecturer

Michael J. Reno (Philosophy)