

PHILOSOPHY, BA

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
	• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
	• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
	• Communication Part A & Part B *
	• Ethnic Studies *
	• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language	• Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
	• Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

- L&S Breadth**
- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
 - 12 credits of Social Science; and
 - 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR 27 CREDITS AND 8 COURSES IN PHILOS ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/COURSES/PHILOS/](https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/philos/))

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
PHILOS 211 or PHILOS 511	Elementary Logic Symbolic Logic	3-4
PHILOS 430	History of Ancient Philosophy	3-4
PHILOS 432	History of Modern Philosophy	3-4
5 advanced PHILOS courses of at least 3 credits from below:		15
PHILOS 430	History of Ancient Philosophy	
PHILOS 432	History of Modern Philosophy	
PHILOS 440	Existentialism	
PHILOS/ ENVIR ST 441	Environmental Ethics	
PHILOS 454	Classical Philosophers	
PHILOS/ RELIG ST 501	Philosophy of Religion	
PHILOS 503	Theory of Knowledge	
PHILOS 504	Special Topics in the Theory of Knowledge	
PHILOS 506	Study Abroad in Philosophy	
PHILOS 511	Symbolic Logic	

PHILOS 512	Methods of Logic	
PHILOS 516	Language and Meaning	
PHILOS 520	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences	
PHILOS 522	Special Topic	
PHILOS/ ENVIR ST 523	Philosophical Problems of the Biological Sciences	
PHILOS/ ECON 524	Philosophy and Economics	
PHILOS 530	Freedom Fate and Choice	
PHILOS 541	Modern Ethical Theories	
PHILOS 543	Special Topics in Ethics	
PHILOS 549	Great Moral Philosophers	
PHILOS/ ED POL 550	Philosophy of Moral Education	
PHILOS 551	Philosophy of Mind	
PHILOS 553	Aesthetics	
PHILOS 555	Political Philosophy	
PHILOS/ GEN&WS 556	Topics in Feminism and Philosophy	
PHILOS 557	Issues in Social Philosophy	
PHILOS 560	Metaphysics	
PHILOS 562	Special Topics in Metaphysics	
PHILOS 567	Topics in Contemporary Philosophy	
PHILOS/ MATH 571	Mathematical Logic	
Additional credits—if necessary—to achieve 27 for the major		3
Total Credits		27

DISTRIBUTION

Of the 27 credits, at least 1 course is required from each category ('Metaphysics and Epistemology' and 'Value Theory'):

Category 'Metaphysics and Epistemology'

Complete one course:

Code	Title	Credits
PHILOS/ RELIG ST 501	Philosophy of Religion	3-4
PHILOS 503	Theory of Knowledge	3
PHILOS 504	Special Topics in the Theory of Knowledge (Bayesian Epistemology)	3
PHILOS 504	Special Topics in the Theory of Knowledge (Epistemic Ideals)	3
PHILOS 516	Language and Meaning	3
PHILOS 520	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences	3
PHILOS 530	Freedom Fate and Choice	3
PHILOS 551	Philosophy of Mind	3
PHILOS 560	Metaphysics	3
PHILOS 562	Special Topics in Metaphysics (Consciousness)	3
PHILOS 567	Topics in Contemporary Philosophy	3

Category 'Value Theory'

Complete one course:

Code	Title	Credits
PHILOS 241	Introductory Ethics	3-4
PHILOS 454	Classical Philosophers (Aristotle's Ethics)	3
PHILOS 541	Modern Ethical Theories	3
PHILOS 549	Great Moral Philosophers	3
PHILOS 555	Political Philosophy	3

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all PHILOS courses and courses that count for the major
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level credits in the major, taken in residence¹
- 15 credits in PHILOS, taken on campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Philosophy Major in consultation with the Philosophy undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Philosophy, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Minimum 3.300 University GPA
- Minimum a 3.500 GPA for all PHILOS and major courses
- One *additional* course from either the Metaphysics and Epistemology or Value Theory categories with a grade of B or better
- PHILOS 681 (for 1-3 credits) and PHILOS 682 (for 3 credits) with a grade of AB or better.²

FOOTNOTES

¹ Courses between PHILOS 400–699 are considered upper-level in the major.

² Students will not be permitted to write a Senior Honors Thesis unless they have taken at least one advanced course on the topic on which they will be writing. Credits earned by writing a Senior Honors Thesis will not count toward the 27 minimum credits required for the major.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.