

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

Department of Philosophy and Religion (<https://catalog.washcoll.edu/catalog/departments-programs/philosophy-religion/>)
Division of Humanities and Fine Arts

Philosophy—traditionally at the center of the liberal arts—asks some of the most difficult and searching questions about human existence, the nature of the universe, right and wrong in human conduct, and the basis of our social and political arrangements. In so doing, it gives the mind the greatest possible leeway to doubt, probe, and criticize. The courses of the Department of Philosophy and Religion have four main purposes: (1) to acquaint the student with some of the great philosophical questions of the past and present and with leading attempts to answer them; (2) to exhibit the connections between philosophy and such related areas as art, business, law, literature, medicine, science, religion, and the environment; (3) to develop the students' capacities for clear thinking and critical analysis; and (4) to provide the basis for reflecting on right versus wrong and good versus evil in the present-day world. These aims are pursued in the atmosphere of diverse philosophical interests and approaches found among the staff of the department. Typically, students also bring varied concerns to their own explorations in philosophy and move on to careers in many diverse fields.

Philosophy Major Requirements

The Philosophy major includes 11 4-credit (or 4-credit equivalent) courses in the Department, selected in consultation with the major advisor. Four courses are electives. Seven courses are required:

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
Core Courses		24	
PHL 100	Introduction to Philosophy		
PHL 108	Introduction to Logic		
PHL 213	History of Ancient Philosophy		
PHL 214	History of Modern Philosophy ¹		
PHL 225	Ethical Theory		
or PHL 235	Foundations of Morality		
PHL 435	Philosophical Methods (or a designated equivalent in unusual circumstances) ²		
Elective Courses ³		16	
	Elective 1		
	Elective 2		
	Elective 3		
	Elective 4		
Senior Capstone Experience (PHL SCE)		4	
Total Credits		44	

¹ The Department recommends taking PHL 213 History of Ancient Philosophy before PHL 214 History of Modern Philosophy.

² Ideally PHL 435 Philosophical Methods is taken in the fall of Junior year.

³ Among the four elective courses students are required to take a 400-level seminar

Senior Capstone Experience

In addition to the ten required courses, each philosophy major must also complete the Senior Capstone Experience (SCE), normally a thesis, but possibly a set of comprehensive exams. In either case majors will work in close association with a department mentor; and those majors who do successfully complete the SCE will receive four credits toward graduation.

Major

- Philosophy Major (p. 1)

Minor

- Philosophy Minor (<https://catalog.washcoll.edu/catalog/departments-programs/philosophy-religion/philosophy-minor/>)
- Religion Minor (<https://catalog.washcoll.edu/catalog/departments-programs/philosophy-religion/religion-minor/>)