School of Arts and Humanities

Philosophy (BA)

Philosophy is one of the most broad-based, rigorous, interdisciplinary, and socially engaged of the liberal arts. Philosophy poses deep, important, and persistent questions concerning the nature of the good life, why we believe and how we know, the nature of the self and its connection with the world and with society, and the foundations of justice. Philosophy takes up such questions through critical analysis of textual evidence, clear and rigorous argumentation, and questioning of unexamined personal and cultural assumptions. The study of the history of philosophy from all cultures proves central to this process.

Far from being an abstruse, removed, and self-contained pursuit, Philosophy at UT Dallas engages in an interdisciplinary Arts & Humanities program, drawing on and contributing to the study of history, literature, and the arts. Our program is also particularly suited to the STEM excellence of UT Dallas, with a practical and theoretical emphasis on the philosophy of science, technology, and medicine. Finally, the UT Dallas Philosophy BA program strives to be highly pluralistic and intellectually diverse, with emphases in continental, analytic, feminist, American, and non-Western philosophical traditions. Since the following catalog course descriptions offer very general descriptions, students are urged to consult the detailed course descriptions available on the web site for the School of Arts and Humanities. At least one-half of the semester credit hours for a major must be taken at UT Dallas.

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Professor: Charles R. Bambach
Associate Professor: Matt Brown
Assistant Professor: Katherine Davies
Associate Professor of Instruction: Lawrence Amato

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
RHET 1302 Rhetoric

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

PHIL 2303 Introduction to Logic
Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Mathematics Core courses

Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences Core courses

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours
PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture Core courses

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Creative Arts Core courses

American History: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from American History Core courses

Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours
GOVT 2305 American National Government
GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Social and Behavioral Sciences Core courses

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from Component Area Option courses

II. Major Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Major Preparatory Courses: 0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum
PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 2303 Introduction to Logic

Major Core Courses: 9 semester credit hours
PHIL 3321 Philosophical Traditions I
PHIL 4328 Philosophy Capstone Project
ARHM 3342 Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Humanities

Major Distribution Courses: 12 semester credit hours
6 semester credit hours of lower- or upper-division courses in History of Philosophy
PHIL 2316 History of Philosophy I  
PHIL 2317 History of Philosophy II  
PHIL 3322 Ancient Philosophy  
PHIL 3323 Early Modern Philosophy  
PHIL 3324 19th and 20th Century Philosophy  
Courses with other numbers may be considered for this distribution requirement on a case-by-case basis, when their syllabus indicates that they have primarily history of philosophy content.  
3 semester credit hours of upper-division courses in *Theoretical Philosophy*

PHIL 3373 Philosophy of Mind  
PHIL 4308 Theories of Knowledge  
PHIL 3328 History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine  
PHIL 4321 Philosophy of Medicine  
Courses with other numbers may be considered for this distribution requirement on a case-by-case basis, when their syllabus indicates that they have primarily theoretical philosophy content.  
3 semester credit hours of upper-division courses in *Practical Philosophy*

PHIL 3375 Contemporary Ethical Issues  
PHIL 3320 Medical Ethics  
PHIL 4323 Ethical Theories  
PHIL 4324 Social and Political Philosophy  
PHIL 4325 Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics  
Courses with other numbers may be considered for this distribution requirement on a case-by-case basis, when their syllabus indicates that they have primarily practical philosophy content.

**Major Elective Courses: 15 semester credit hours**  
15 semester credit hours of upper-division Philosophy electives, including Major Figures, Great Texts, Traditions, and Special Topics courses.

**Major-Related Courses: 6 semester credit hours**  
Students must select 6 semester credit hours of upper-division courses from the following list of courses with significant philosophical content:

ATCM 3300 Code Plus Culture  
ATCM 4384 Ethics in New Media, Technology, and Communication  
COMM 3351 History and Theory of Communication  
COMM 3352 Media and Culture
III. Elective Requirements: 36 semester credit hours

Free Electives: 36 semester credit hours

Both upper- and lower-division courses may be used as electives, but students must complete at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation. Students may want to consider using some free elective credit to complete one of the approved minors offered by UT-Dallas, and should consult their academic advisor for more information about their choices.

Incoming freshmen must enroll in and complete requirements of ARHM 1100.¹

¹. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

². Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

³. A required Preparatory course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours may be counted in Core Curriculum.

⁴. 0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum, if the student has not previously completed other courses to satisfy these core curriculum requirements.

⁵. These courses may have prerequisites not listed in the degree plan, and may add to the student's time to degree.