

# PHILOSOPHY

## DEPARTMENT OFFICE

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## DEPARTMENT CHAIR

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## ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

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## Faculty

Roger Bell  
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## Programs Offered

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy  
Pre-Law/Applied Ethics (Optional) Concentration  
Minor in Philosophy

## The Philosophical Life

The value of a philosophy degree stems from the richness of the perennial themes that are addressed in philosophical texts and discussions. Majors in this department balance their studies of the great classical themes of philosophy with a focus on the particular philosophical issues that are of paramount importance to them. In designing the department major, care has been taken to emphasize both the historical and analytical dimensions of philosophy, as well as its theoretical and practical dimensions. In this regard, the Department of Philosophy believes that the Socratic dictum “know thyself!” requires the exercise of both theoretical and practical reason. The design of the major expresses this fundamental belief.

In its historical dimensions, an education in philosophy gives the student a nuanced appreciation of the wide array of conceptual systems that human beings have employed to deal with questions concerning reality, justice, truth, morality, and the meaning of life. In its analytical and critical dimensions, philosophy trains one to detect and avoid errors in thinking. Such training involves special emphasis on the logical use of language, the analysis of concepts, and the ability to critique and construct extended arguments.

Philosophy’s emphasis on both the imaginative and critical use of rationality helps prepare one for a wide variety of careers that require finely-honed reasoning and communication skills. Such fields include law, medicine, social and political advocacy, counseling, teaching, print and electronic media, and research and writing in both academic and nonacademic fields.

## Faculty and Curriculum

At the heart of the philosophy program is the faculty: dedicated teachers and scholars who represent key approaches to philosophy, and who are actively engaged in ongoing research. We have designed the curriculum to provide the major with a balanced historical and contemporary understanding of philosophy.

## Advising

Advising begins with an initial advising interview with the department chair. During the following semester the student will choose a regular faculty advisor.

## Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

A major in philosophy involves a core of courses required of all majors, one senior seminar, and 18 elective units in philosophy chosen by the student. Core courses provide overviews of the major areas of philosophy, whereas elective courses may be more specialized or experimental in content and method.

Degree Requirements	Units
General education	51
Major requirements: core (24), electives (18)	42
General electives	27
<b>Total units needed for graduation</b>	<b>120</b>

## Major Core Requirements

PHIL 101 Critical Thinking	0
<i>(GE A3 units do not count for the major)</i>	
PHIL 120 Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL 202 Proseminar	3
PHIL 204 Applied Ethics	3
PHIL 207 Philosophical Movements	3
PHIL 301 Philosophy of Science and Technology	3
PHIL 302 Ethics and Value Theory	0
<i>(These GE C3 units do not count for the major)</i>	
PHIL 303 Social and Political Philosophy	3
PHIL 306 Contemporary Topics	3
<i>(Students may repeat course with different curriculum for elective credit)</i>	
PHIL 307 Philosophical Figures	3
<i>(Students may repeat course with different curriculum for elective credit)</i>	
PHIL 400 Senior Seminar	3
<b>Total units in the major core</b>	<b>27</b>

Teaching of senior seminars rotates among full-time department members, and at least one is offered each semester. PHIL 400 may be repeated twice for credit when the subject matter and instructor are not repeated.

In exceptional cases, the Philosophy Department permits the design of an individual major. A proposal for an individual major must

be approved by three members of the full-time faculty selected by the applicant. These three faculty members shall constitute the student's major committee.

The major requirement is thus 42 units: 27 core units and 15 units of electives. Students may petition for elective units to be transferred in from outside the department.

### Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

FRESHMAN YEAR:: 30 Units	
Fall Semester (15 Units)	Spring Semester (15 Units)
PHIL 101 (A3) or ENGL 101 (A2) (3)	ENGL 101 or PHIL 101 (3)
PHIL 120 (A3) (3)	GE (6)
GE (6)	Electives (6)
Electives (3)	
SOPHOMORE YEAR:: 30 Units	
Fall Semester (15 Units)	Spring Semester (15 Units)
PHIL 202 (3)	PHIL 204 (3)
PHIL 207 (3)	Philosophy Electives (3)
PHIL 200 (3)	GE (6)
GE (3)	Electives (3)
Electives (3)	
JUNIOR YEAR:: 30 Units	
Fall Semester (15 Units)	Spring Semester (15 Units)
PHIL 302 (3)	PHIL 307 (3)
PHIL 303 (C3) (3)	Philosophy Electives (3)
Philosophy Elective (3)	GE (6)
GE (6)	Electives (3)
SENIOR YEAR:: 30 Units	
Fall Semester (15 Units)	Spring Semester (15 Units)
PHIL 301 (3)	PHIL 306 (3)
Philosophy Elective (3)	PHIL 400 (3)
GE (6)	Philosophy Electives (6)
Electives (3)	Electives (6)
<b>TOTAL UNITS:: 120</b>	

### Pre-Law/Applied Ethics (optional) Concentration

The Philosophy Department offers majors the option of choosing a concentration in pre-law and applied ethics. This option does not increase the overall number of required units. However, it requires students to increase the number of required units from 27 to 30 and decrease the number of elective units from 15 to 12. For a list of the required courses in the pre-law and applied ethics concentration see the list below. For a sample four-year progression through the major with the concentration in pre-law and applied ethics see the sample worksheet.

### Major Core Requirements

PHIL 101 Critical Thinking	0
PHIL 102 Introduction to Logic	3
PHIL 120 Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL 202 Proseminar	3
PHIL 204 Applied Ethics	3
PHIL 207 Philosophical Movements	3
PHIL 302 Ethics and Value Theory	0
PHIL 303 Social and Political Philosophy	3
PHIL 306 Contemporary Topics	3
<i>(Students may repeat course with different curriculum for elective credit)</i>	
PHIL 307 Philosophical Figures	3
<i>(Students may repeat course with different curriculum for elective credit)</i>	
PHIL 375 Philosophy of Law	3
PHIL 499 Law Internship	3
<b>Total units in the (pre-law) core</b>	<b>30</b>

### Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy Pre-Law/Applied Ethics Concentration

FRESHMAN YEAR:: 30 Units	
Fall Semester (15 Units)	Spring Semester (15 Units)
PHIL 101 or ENGL 101 (3)	ENGL 101 or PHIL 101 (3)
PHIL 120 (3)	PHIL 102 (3)
GE (6)	GE (6)
University Electives (3)	University Electives (6)
SOPHOMORE YEAR:: 30 Units	
Fall Semester (15 Units)	Spring Semester (15 Units)
PHIL 202 (3)	PHIL 204 (3)
PHIL 200 (3)	GE (6)
GE (6)	University Electives (6)
University Electives (3)	
JUNIOR YEAR:: 30 Units	
Fall Semester (15 Units)	Spring Semester (15 Units)
PHIL 207 (3)	PHIL 307 (3)
PHIL 302 (3)	PHIL 375 (3)
Philosophy Electives (3)	Philosophy Electives (3)
GE (6)	GE (3)
	University Electives (3)
SENIOR YEAR:: 30 Units	
Fall Semester (15 Units)	Spring Semester (15 Units)
PHIL 303 (3)	PHIL 306 (3)
Philosophy Electives (3)	PHIL 499 (3)
GE (6)	Philosophy Electives (3)
University Electives (3)	University Electives (6)
<b>TOTAL UNITS:: 120</b>	

*Courses may be interchanged fall and spring semester depending on course offering each semester.*

## **Minor in Philosophy**

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The minor in philosophy consists of 18 units chosen by the student in consultation with a department advisor. At least 12 units must be taken in residence at SSU. These 18 units may be lower- or upper-division philosophy courses. Only two specific general education courses may be counted toward the 18 units: Philosophical Issues (PHIL 200) and Ethics and Value Theory (PHIL 302). Only two course substitutions must be approved by the department chair and all courses must be taken for a grade to count toward the minor. The minor track in philosophy may be designed to emphasize pre-law, pre-med, pre-business, critical thinking, and other applied areas and/or pre-professional programs. Consult the department chair for further information.