

Philosophy Major and Minor

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Pitt's Department of Philosophy is one of the best in the country, with a long tradition of teaching excellence. A major in philosophy provides excellent preparation for such professions as law, medicine, and business. The conceptual sophistication imparted by training in philosophy is invaluable in virtually any field of learning or any profession. Students majoring in biology, psychology, history, or computer science would do well to pick up a second major in philosophy, a suggestion that the Department of Philosophy supports by offering standard and intensive major options. Students who do especially well in either the standard or intensive major program graduate with honors in philosophy. Because of the superior national reputation of the Department of Philosophy, a primary or secondary major in philosophy helps a graduate gain entry into a good graduate or professional school.

Required courses for the standard Philosophy major

The standard philosophy major requires the completion of 24 credits distributed as follows.

Select one course from each of the four groups below. At least one of these four courses must be taken at the 1000-level.

Ancient Philosophy

PHIL 0200 History of Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 0202 History of Ancient Philosophy Writing Practicum
PHIL 1020 Plato
PHIL 1040 Aristotle
PHIL 1060 Hellenistic Philosophy
PHIL 1070 Topics in Ancient Philosophy

Modern Philosophy

PHIL 0210 History of Modern Philosophy
PHIL 0212 History of Modern Philosophy Writing Practicum
PHIL 1110 Rationalism
PHIL 1140 Empiricism
PHIL 1170 Kant

Ethics

PHIL 0300 Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 0302 Introduction to Ethics Writing Practicum
PHIL 0320 Social Philosophy
PHIL 0322 Social Philosophy Writing Practicum
PHIL 0330 Political Philosophy
PHIL 0332 Political Philosophy Writing Practicum
PHIL 0380 Introduction to Feminist Thought
PHIL 13XX any course

Logic

PHIL 0500 Introduction to Logic
PHIL 1500 Symbolic Logic

Select four 1000-level electives beyond any chosen in the previous groups.

Required courses for the intensive Philosophy major

The intensive philosophy major requires the completion of 36 credits distributed as follows.

Note: The intensive major has no official standing and should be thought of as a recommendation for a more rigorous course of study within the philosophy major.

Select one course from each of the three groups below. At least one of these three courses must be taken at the 1000-level.

Ancient Philosophy

PHIL 0200 History of Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 0202 History of Ancient Philosophy Writing Practicum
PHIL 1020 Plato
PHIL 1040 Aristotle
PHIL 1060 Hellenistic Philosophy
PHIL 1070 Topics in Ancient Philosophy

Modern Philosophy

PHIL 0210 History of Modern Philosophy
PHIL 0212 History of Modern Philosophy Writing Practicum
PHIL 1110 Rationalism
PHIL 1140 Empiricism
PHIL 1170 Kant

Logic

PHIL 0500 Introduction to Logic
PHIL 1500 Symbolic Logic

Select five 1000-level courses from Group 1 and four courses from Group 2, beyond any chosen in the previous groups.

Group 1 – choose five courses

PHIL (1020 - 1190): History of Philosophy
PHIL (1300 - 1390): Value Theory
PHIL (1420 - 1490): Metaphysics and Epistemology
PHIL (1500 - 1690): Logic and Philosophy of Science
PHIL 1 _____ (1000-level elective except PHIL 1904 / PHIL 1941)

Group 2 – choose four courses

PHIL 1940 *

PHIL 1941 * / PHIL _____ (elective - any level)

PHIL _____ (elective - any level)

PHIL _____ (elective - any level)

* The student must gain permission to register for this course from the faculty member who has agreed to supervise the student's work on a senior thesis. Neither PHIL 1940 nor PHIL 1941 count toward the five 1000-level courses mentioned above.

Grade requirements: Students must earn at least a C in each course that is to count toward the major.

Writing (W) requirement: Students must complete at least one W-course in the major.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: There is no limit to the number of courses that can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Dietrich School department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Dietrich School minor or a Dietrich School or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Honors major requirements: Students who complete the standard major, intensive major, or joint major will graduate with honors in philosophy if they have earned a grade of A- or better in at least six 1000-level PHIL courses, exclusive of PHIL 1902, PHIL 1903, and PHIL 1904.

Joint majors with philosophy: Joint majors are not double majors but are multidisciplinary majors offered by two or more departments. The Department of Philosophy offers a joint major in Politics and Philosophy with the Department of Political Science, which is administered by the Department of Political Science. Consult the Department of Political Science for additional information.

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Checklist for the standard Philosophy major

Select one course from each of the four groups below. At least one of these four courses must be taken at the 1000-level.

_____ PHIL 0200	_____ PHIL 0300
_____ PHIL 0202	_____ PHIL 0302
_____ PHIL 1020	_____ PHIL 0320
_____ PHIL 1040	_____ PHIL 0322
_____ PHIL 1060	_____ PHIL 0330
_____ PHIL 1070	_____ PHIL 0332
	_____ PHIL 0380
_____ PHIL 0210	_____ PHIL 13_____
_____ PHIL 0212	
_____ PHIL 1110	
_____ PHIL 1140	_____ PHIL 0500
_____ PHIL 1170	_____ PHIL 1500

Select four 1000-level electives beyond any chosen in the previous groups.

_____ PHIL _____ (1000-level elective)
 _____ PHIL _____ (1000-level elective)
 _____ PHIL _____ (1000-level elective)
 _____ PHIL _____ (1000-level elective)

Checklist for the intensive Philosophy major

Select one course from each of the three groups below. At least one of these three courses must be taken at the 1000-level.

_____ PHIL 0200	_____ PHIL 0210
_____ PHIL 0202	_____ PHIL 0212
_____ PHIL 1020	_____ PHIL 1110
_____ PHIL 1040	_____ PHIL 1140
_____ PHIL 1060	_____ PHIL 1170
_____ PHIL 1070	
	_____ PHIL 0500
	_____ PHIL 1500

Select five 1000-level courses from Group 1 and four courses from Group 2, beyond any chosen in the previous groups.

Group 1 – choose five courses

_____ PHIL _____ (1020 - 1190)
 _____ PHIL _____ (1300 - 1390)
 _____ PHIL _____ (1420 - 1490)
 _____ PHIL _____ (1500 - 1690)
 _____ PHIL 1_____ (1000-level except PHIL 1904 / PHIL 1941)

Group 2 – choose four courses

_____ PHIL 1940 *
 _____ PHIL 1941 * / PHIL _____ (elective - any level)
 _____ PHIL _____ (elective - any level)
 _____ PHIL _____ (elective - any level)

* The student must gain permission to register for this course from the faculty member who has agreed to supervise the student's work on a senior thesis.

Checklist for the Philosophy minor

Select one course from each of the four course groups below; one course must be a 1000-level course.

_____ PHIL 0200	_____ PHIL 0300
_____ PHIL 0202	_____ PHIL 0302
_____ PHIL 1010	_____ PHIL 0320
_____ PHIL 1020	_____ PHIL 0322
_____ PHIL 1040	_____ PHIL 0330
_____ PHIL 1060	_____ PHIL 0332
_____ PHIL 1070	_____ PHIL 0380
	_____ PHIL 0382
_____ PHIL 0210	_____ PHIL 13_____
_____ PHIL 0212	
_____ PHIL 1110	
_____ PHIL 1140	_____ PHIL 0500
_____ PHIL 1170	_____ PHIL 1500

Select two 1000-level electives beyond the one required in the previous group.

_____ PHIL 1_____ (1000-level elective)
 _____ PHIL 1_____ (1000-level elective)

Note: Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.