Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Philosophy

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Philosophy, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the general historical development of philosophy and develop an in-depth understanding of at least one historical period or movement.
2. Demonstrate the ability to read philosophical texts critically and with understanding of the problems and contexts.
3. Demonstrate the cognitive and formal abilities to evaluate critically philosophical arguments.
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly and logically their own views on a range of important philosophical problems.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Philosophy

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Philosophy must complete:

- A minimum of 10 courses (30 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 60 credit hours outside of major requirements.
- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major’s Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Philosophy</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Philosophy</td>
<td>120</td>
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**Degree Requirements**

**Core Requirements**

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<td>Core Courses</td>
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restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: https://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

**Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines**
Students pursuing the major in Philosophy should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Transfer credit coursework from online-only courses cannot be used to count towards the major.

**Distribution Credit Information**
Philosophy studies basic questions of knowledge, value, and reality. It shows students the importance of critical examination and careful reasoning about fundamental issues that affect us as persons, as professionals, and as citizens. Thus philosophy courses tend to be broad based and address foundational concerns connected to studies in many other disciplines. Many bear importantly on basic ethical and political issues. Many involve the study of perspectives that have broadly and profoundly shaped history and culture. For these reasons most 100- to 300-level Philosophy courses satisfy the criteria described in the General Announcements for DI credit. Some 300-level courses are not listed for DI credit, either because they concern relatively advanced or specialized topics, or because faculty have not requested DI status for that course (as the department leaves such requests up to individual faculty members). Courses at the 400-level are advanced courses that presuppose previous work in philosophy, and are not suitable for DI credit. Philosophy courses in formal logic are not suitable for DI credit; instead they belong in Distribution Group III.

**Additional Information**
For additional information, please see the Philosophy website: https://philosophy.rice.edu.

**Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Philosophy**

**Academic Honors**
The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

**Distinction in Research in Philosophy**
Students must submit an application to be considered for "Distinction in Research in Philosophy" by April 1. Minimum qualifications are a 3.50 GPA in philosophy courses and enrollment in Honors Thesis course PHIL 412 or the Research Seminar for majors, PHIL 407. The work to be considered must be submitted to a committee appointed by the Chair, which will include the Director of Undergraduate Studies, any Honors Thesis supervisors, and the instructor(s) of the Research Seminar.

**Senior Thesis and Departmental Honors in Philosophy**
Qualified majors may apply before their senior year for directed research leading to a senior thesis, carried out during both semesters of the senior year. Each semester will require 3 credit hours; these 6 hours (PHIL 411 and PHIL 412) are in addition to the course hours required for the major.

To qualify for the program, students must have an approved research proposal and the agreement of a faculty member to serve as advisor for that project. Applicants will normally be required to have a GPA of 3.75 in philosophy courses and to have completed at least two upper-level courses in the distribution area of the proposed research. (See the major requirements for the definition of the distribution areas.) Applications should be submitted to the departmental director of undergraduate studies and will be evaluated by the department.

Students who are considering applying to write a senior thesis should consult the departmental director of undergraduate studies and potential advisors as early as possible. Normally students will apply before preregistration in the second semester of their junior year and will spend time during the following summer reading from a list they have developed with their advisor. The thesis normally will be between 7,500 and 15,000 words (approximately 30–60 pages) in length. Students will enroll in PHIL 411 and PHIL 412. Students accepted into the Rice Undergraduate Scholars Program should enroll in HONS 470 and HONS 471 and will be awarded departmental honors for their work in that program if they meet the requirements in this statement. Note that acceptance into the departmental honors program is a separate process from acceptance in RUSP, as is the evaluation for departmental honors.

To be considered for honors, the senior thesis must be completed by the beginning of April. The thesis will be read and evaluated by the advisor and a second reader chosen by the department, and the final decision on honors will be made by the entire faculty. A student will receive honors if he or she receives a grade of A+, A, or A- in PHIL 412. Completion of the major with at least a 3.50 GPA in all philosophy courses is required for departmental honors. Students who miss the April deadline for thesis submission but meet the university deadline for the semester will receive a grade and credit for completed work but will not be considered for honors. Students whose thesis is not awarded honors will receive a grade and credit for completed work.

**Additional Information**
For additional information, please see the Philosophy website at: https://philosophy.rice.edu.

See https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this major.