

PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

Mission

The mission of the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (<https://www.biola.edu/degrees/u/philosophy-ba/>) is to foster a community of Christian scholars apprenticed to Jesus in the pursuit of theoretical and practical wisdom.

Degree Program

A Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy is offered upon completion of the University baccalaureate and major requirements.

Students who declare philosophy majors during their freshman year are expected to take PHIL 210 and PHIL 230 by the end of their sophomore year. Students who declare the major later are expected to take these courses during their first two semesters in the program.

The Philosophy major may be taken as pre-professional preparation for careers in such fields as law, education and the ministry, or as preparation for graduate study in philosophy.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, students will be able to:

1. Discuss, explain, and evaluate the key ideas and arguments in the history and main divisions of philosophy (ULO 1).
2. Employ the skills of philosophical reading, writing, and argument (ULO 1).
3. Apply insights from the world's wisdom traditions to their practice of the teachings of Jesus (ULO 2 and 3).

Each Program Learning Outcome (PLO) listed above references at least one of the University Learning Outcomes (ULO 1, 2, 3), which may be found in the General Information section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/#UniversityLearningOutcomes>) of this catalog.

Program Requirements

Upper-Division Course Restrictions

All Philosophy majors must consult with their academic advisor each semester before registering for upper-division courses.

Curriculum Requirements

The major comprises 38 credits beyond the Core Curriculum requirement in Philosophy.

Code	Title	Credits
Program Courses		
PHIL 210	Introduction to Logic ¹	3
PHIL 230	Introduction to Practical Wisdom	3
PHIL 301 or PHIL 304	Greek and Roman Philosophy Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	3
PHIL 303	Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 350	Philosophy Seminar ²	4

PHIL 351	Philosophical Recitation and Defense ³	1
PHIL 450	Senior Thesis	3
Electives: Select 18 credits of upper-division PHIL courses.		18
Program Course Requirements: 38 credits		
Core Curriculum Requirements (https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-core-curriculum-program/)		74
General Electives		8
Total Credits		120

¹ This course is a major requirement and does not satisfy the Core Curriculum Philosophy requirement for Philosophy majors.

² Must be taken for a total number of 4 credits.

³ Should be taken during the academic year in which students will complete their third and final oral exam (see Oral Examinations section below).

Oral Examinations

All Philosophy majors must pass three oral exams before graduating. Each exam is a comprehensive, oral examination covering topics from all Biola philosophy courses completed in prior semesters. A study guide indicating topics and questions to prepare will be distributed at the beginning of the semester. Students are encouraged to work together to prepare. Prerequisites are at least nine credits of philosophy, either upper or lower-division, or consent of the department chair. During the academic year in which the third and final oral exam will be taken, students should enroll in PHIL 351.

Course Sequence

NOTE: The course sequence table is designed by the major department and is one way that the classes will work out properly in sequence for your major. However, there are alternative or flexible ways to rotate some of the classes within the same year/level and sometimes between year levels. Please contact your major department advisor to discuss flexible alternatives in scheduling the sequence of your classes.

Taking coursework during the summer session may also be an option to accelerate your degree path.

See Core Curriculum Program section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-core-curriculum-program/>) for a list of approved Core Curriculum courses.

Philosophy, B.A.

First Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 103 or 165	3 BBST 103 or 165	3
ENGL 100 or 112	3 KNES 107	1
GNST 102	1 Philosophy	6
Foreign Language (see Core Curriculum)	4 Foreign Language (see Core Curriculum)	4
Philosophy (see Core Curriculum)	3 Science (see Core Curriculum)	3
14		17
Second Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 209 or 210	3 BBST 209 or 210	3
HIST 100 or 101	3 HIST 200, 201, or POSC 225	3

Philosophy	7 Philosophy	5
Fine Arts (see Core Curriculum)	3 Literature (see Core Curriculum)	3
16		14

Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 251	3 BBST 354	3
Philosophy	4 ENGL 313	3
Behavioral Science (see Core Curriculum)	3 Philosophy	3
KNES Activity (see Core Curriculum)	1 Communication (see Core Curriculum)	3
Math (see Core Curriculum)	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 Graduation Application due in Registrar's Office	
Writing Competency Requirement (https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-requirements-policies/#WritingCompetencyRequirement)		
17		15

Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 300/400 Bible Elective	3 BBST 300/400 Bible Elective	3
BBST 365	3 BBST 465	3
Philosophy	7 Philosophy	6
General Elective	1 General Elective	1
14		13

Total Credits 120

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Philosophy, B.A.

First Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HNRS 101	4 HNRS 105	4
HNRS 102	4 HNRS 106	4
GNST 102	1 KNES 107	1
Philosophy	3 Philosophy	1
Foreign Language (see Core Curriculum)	4 Foreign Language (see Core Curriculum)	4
16		14

Second Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HNRS 210	4 HNRS 230	4
HNRS 215	4 HNRS 231	4
Philosophy	3 Philosophy	4
Math (see Core Curriculum)	3 General Elective	3

Science (see Core Curriculum)	3	
17		15

Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HNRS 324	4 HNRS 337	4
HNRS 326	2 HNRS 339	2
Philosophy	6 Philosophy	7
KNES Activity (see Core Curriculum)	1 General Elective	3
Writing Competency Requirement (https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-requirements-policies/#WritingCompetencyRequirement)		
13		16

Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HNRS 443	4 HNRS 458	4
BBST 465	3 HNRS 467	2
Philosophy	7 Philosophy	7
General Elective		2
14		15

Total Credits 120