Duluth Campus

Philosophy B.A.

Philosophy

College of Liberal Arts

• Program Type: Baccalaureate

• Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2017

• Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120

• Required credits within the major: 31 to 38

• Degree: Bachelor of Arts

This program familiarizes students with the broad range of foundational theories that arose in the history of philosophy and helps students develop problem-solving skills using critical thinking. Beginning courses provide a comprehensive introduction to the methods and procedures of analytical reasoning by examining issues concerning logic, the nature of knowledge and reality, the existence of freedom, and the character of right and wrong. Advanced courses focus on special historical periods (e.g., Greek philosophy, early modern philosophy) and specific problem areas (e.g., philosophy of psychology, medical ethics, philosophy of language).

Principles that emerge from the study of philosophy concern basic theories and concepts, and the nature of reasoning as it applies to all areas of investigation within the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. As a result, studying philosophy enhances all majors and minors.

Honors Requirements: Candidates must be philosophy majors with a 3.30 GPA in the major. Students complete PHIL 5991 and write a substantial paper or significantly rewrite a paper submitted for another philosophy course. Students must notify the department head of their intent to participate in the honors program by the end of the first week of the semester of graduation and the paper must be approved by a faculty member at least 30 days before the end of the term. The paper is presented orally in a department colloquium with the approved manuscript submitted to the department head at least one week before presentation. Contact the department head for more information.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

• via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)
Program Goals

1. Students will be able to identify major philosophers and describe the problems these philosophers addressed.

2. Students will be able to argue for points of view, defend their assertions, and recognize and assess counterarguments.

3. Students will be able to construct strategies for addressing both real and hypothetical problems.

4. Students will be cognizant of differing perspectives based on gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, and other vectors; students will be able to identify issues of social justice stemming from such differences.

5. Students will be able to analyze concepts and critically evaluate claims and arguments; students will be able to apply these skills to social problems in a variety of areas.

6. Students will be able to use ethical theories to guide their life choices and make determinations of right and wrong.

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

Required prerequisites Introductory Requirement (1 cr)

Transfer students with 24 or more credits and current UMD students who change colleges to CLA are exempt from this requirement. New first-year students with 24 or more PSEO credits may request to be waived from this requirement.

**UST 1000** - UMD Seminar (1.0 - 2.0 cr)

General Requirements

The Board of Regents, on recommendation of the faculty, grants degrees from the University of Minnesota. Requirements for an undergraduate degree from University of Minnesota Duluth include the following:

1. Students must meet all course and credit requirements of the departments and colleges or schools in which they are enrolled including an advanced writing course. Students seeking two degrees must fulfill the
requirements of both degrees. However, two degrees cannot be awarded for the same major.

2. Students must complete all requirements of the Liberal Education Program.

3. Students must complete a minimum of 120 semester credits.

4. At least 30 of the last 60 degree credits earned immediately before graduation must be awarded by UMD.

5. Students must complete at least half of their courses at the 3xxx-level and higher at UMD. Study-abroad credits earned through courses taught by UM faculty and at institutions with which UMD has international exchange programs may be used to fulfill this requirement.

6. If a minor is required, students must take at least three upper division credits in their minor field from UMD.

7. The minimum cumulative UM GPA required for graduation will be 2.00 and will include only University of Minnesota coursework. A minimum UM GPA of 2.00 is required in each UMD undergraduate major and minor. No academic unit may impose higher grade point standards to graduate.

8. Diploma, transcripts, and certification will be withheld until all financial obligations to the University have been met.

Program Requirements: Applied Ethics

1. A second field of study (either a minor or another major).

2. Majors with sub-plans must be declared through the CLA Advising & Academic Services office.

3. PHIL 3900 - Colloquium for Majors. Students attend 12 department approved philosophy lectures/discussions over a 4-year period and register for PHIL 3900 only during the semester they attend their 12th lecture; contact the department for details.

This emphasis familiarizes students with major ethical theories and their applications in a number of fields and work situations. Beginning courses provide a framework for ethical thinking and decision making from a variety of theoretical orientations, along with introductory applications to social problems. Advanced courses apply this thinking to complex issues generated within specific fields such as medicine, technology, and the environment.

Principles that emerge from the study of applied ethics can complement a variety of majors and minors, as well as enhance students' moral education and theoretical literacy for handling ethical
problems that may emerge in a variety of careers and leadership roles in law, politics, and service organizations.

Students choose upper division electives from other disciplines to shape the major to their specific interests and postbaccalaureate plans.

**Lower Division Core (10 cr)**

- **PHIL 1001** - Introduction to Philosophy [LE CAT7, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
- **PHIL 1003** - Ethics and Society [LE CAT8, LEIP CAT08, HUMANITIES, CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)
- **PHIL 1008** - Critical Thinking [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)

*or* **PHIL 1018** - Logic [LE CAT2, LOGIC & QR] (4.0 cr)

**Upper Division Core (13 cr)**

- **PHIL 3281** - Ethical Theory (4.0 cr)
- **PHIL 3900** - Colloquium for Majors (1.0 cr)
- **PHIL 4900** - Seminar in Philosophy (4.0 cr)
- **PHIL 3291** - Current Social Political Philosophy (4.0 cr)

*or* **POL 3600** - Political Concepts (4.0 cr)

**History of Philosophy Elective (4 cr)**

- **PHIL 3301** - Greek Philosophy (4.0 cr)
*or* **PHIL 3303** - The Birth of Modern Philosophy (4.0 cr)
- **PHIL 3421** - Eastern Philosophy (4.0 cr)

**Upper Division Application Areas (7 cr)**

Take 2 or more course(s) from the following:

- **FORS 2025** - HIST 2025 History in Greece (3.0 cr)
- **PHIL 3025** - Philosophy of Race and Racism (4.0 cr)
- **PHIL 3222** - Medical Ethics (4.0 cr)
- **PHIL 3231** - Law and Punishment (4.0 cr)
- **PHIL 3242** - Values and Technology [LE CAT8, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)

*or* **PHIL 3325** - Environmental Ethics [HUMANITIES, SUSTAIN] (4.0 cr)

**Advanced Writing Requirement (3 cr)**

The advanced writing requirement may be satisfied with one additional PHIL 3xxx course for at least 3 cr.

Take one of the following: WRIT 31xx or PHIL 3xxx (3 cr)