

**Bachelor of Arts (BA)**

# Philosophy

Philosophy provides a solid foundation for successful careers in many fields and is excellent preparation for students planning to attend graduate school or law school. It emphasizes problem solving, the organization and expression of ideas and issues, techniques of logical reasoning, the formulation and evaluation of arguments, and the study of principles of conduct. Philosophy provides knowledge and skills that have immediate practical application, are transferable from one field to another, and are in high demand across a wide variety of careers and professions.

Philosophy majors study ideas, concepts and methods from science, art, religion, politics, law, ethics, business, psychology, mathematics, history, literature and cognitive science. They learn to clarify the meaning, basis, and coherence of ideas and arguments, to distinguish good reasoning from bad, to identify assumptions and inferences, to assess standards of evidence and to extract what is essential from large bodies of information. Graduates with a degree in philosophy are employed in government, finance, teaching, medicine, law, computer science, journalism, management, publishing, sales, criminal justice, public relations and many other fields. Philosophy is also recommended as a second major for students preparing to enter fields which require postgraduate study, such as computer science, management, medicine or public administration.

**Becoming Career Ready...**

/ Exceptionally well qualified faculty members work closely with students in small-class settings, challenging students to think systematically and analytically about issues that impact life, careers and community.

/ Philosophy graduates work in the fields of politics, publishing, health, education, government, law, public safety, and in non-profit, religious and business settings. Examples of job titles include lobbyist, publisher, archivist, lawyer, judge, professor, conflict resolution specialist, non-profit administrator, clergy and journalist.

/ Nationally, graduates in philosophy outperform most other majors on tests such as the GRE, LSAT, and GMAT. Overall, philosophy majors have the highest verbal score and second highest analytic score on the GRE. Since 1995, 100% of the philosophy graduates from Southeast who have applied to graduate or law school have been accepted.

/ 100% of Southeast programs offer real-world experience. Philosophy students gain this experience through participation in a practicum or professional conference, or optional study abroad or internship experience.

/ The path to a successful career starts with you! You can maximize your career development by working closely with Career Services and Southeast faculty – they are here to help you connect your passions, interests and skills to jobs and opportunities in the field. Career Services provides professional career counseling and coaching, resume critiques, practice interviews, job search strategies, career events, networking opportunities and more.

**Advanced Degree Acceptances**

- Harvard University Law School
- University of Missouri Law School
- Washington University Law School
- St. Louis University Law School
- Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Law School
- University of Arizona
- Washington University
- University of Indiana
- Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- Western Michigan University

**Internships of Recent Graduates**

- Office of the Governor
- Missouri State Senate
- Missouri House of Representatives

**Transfer and Dual Credit Students**

If you have dual credit or transfer credit, please visit our transfer course equivalencies guide at [semo.edu/transfercredit](http://semo.edu/transfercredit).

**To learn more**  
**Office of Admissions**  
 (573) 651-2590  
[admissions@semo.edu](mailto:admissions@semo.edu)  
[semo.edu](http://semo.edu)

**To explore the**  
**College of Humanities and**  
**Social Sciences online, visit**  
[semo.edu/hss](http://semo.edu/hss)

**For advising**  
**Center for Academic Advising**  
[semo.edu/advising](http://semo.edu/advising)

# Philosophy

## Bachelor of Arts (BA)

This is a guide based on the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on several factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students will meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their individual progress.

### CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

#### PHILOSOPHY – 31 Hours – Minor Required

##### Required courses:

- \_\_\_ PL300 Ancient Philosophy (3)
- \_\_\_ PL310 Modern Philosophy (3)
- \_\_\_ PL390 Contemporary Philosophy (3)
- \_\_\_ PL400 Seminar: Topics in Philosophy (3)
- \_\_\_ PL450 Seminar: Methods & Movements (3)
- \_\_\_ PL481 Practicum (1)

##### Choose one course:

- \_\_\_ PL120 Symbolic Logic I (3)
- \_\_\_ PL330 Symbolic Logic II (3)

##### Choose one course:

- \_\_\_ PL203 Aesthetics and the Arts (3)
- \_\_\_ PL204 Ethical Theory (3)
- \_\_\_ PL245 Social & Political Philosophy (3)

##### Choose 9 hours:

\_\_\_ PL/UI XXX Philosophy Electives: Choose PL courses or departmentally approved UI courses. (At least one course must be 300-500 level.) PL 110 recommended in first semester.

**General Education Requirements** – some requirements may be fulfilled by coursework in major program

- Social and Behavioral Sciences – 6 hours
- Constitution Requirement – 3 hours
- Written Communication – 6 hours
- Oral Communication – 3 hours
- Natural Sciences – 7 hours (from two disciplines, one to include a lab)
- Mathematics – 3 hours
- Humanities & Fine Arts – 9 hours (from at least two disciplines)
- Additional requirements – 5 hours (to include UI100 for native students)
- Civics examination

NOTE: Twelve hours of foreign language is recommended but not required.

### SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
	Course #	Hrs	Course #	Hrs
FIRST YEAR	UI100	1	PL120/330	3
	EN100	3	General Education	3
	PL Elective	3	General Education	3
	General Education	3	General Education	3
	General Education	3	Elective	3
	General Education	3		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
SECOND YEAR	PL203/204/245	3	PL300/310	3
	Minor Course	3	Minor Course	3
	General Education	3	General Education	3
	General Education	3	General Education	3
	General Education	3	General Education	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
(Summer courses are encouraged to avoid 18-hour semesters.)				
THIRD YEAR	PL390	3	PL300/310	3
	Minor Course	3	IU/UI 3xx	3
	Elective	3	Minor Course	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
FOURTH YEAR	PL400	3	PL450	3
	PL Elective	3	PL481	1
	Minor Course	3	PL Elective	3
	Elective	3	Minor Course	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
			Elective	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

**Degree requirements for all students:** a minimum of 120 credit hours, completion of the General Education program, and completion of 39 senior division hours (300-599). Refer to the Undergraduate Bulletin or Degree Works for additional graduation requirements for your program.

A minimum 2.0 GPA in the major and overall are required to graduate with a B.A. in Philosophy.

Revised  
2/26/2021