

PHILOSOPHY, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-PHIL

6200 Horizon Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: philosophy.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-phil

The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy examines how philosophers have answered some of the most enduring questions about human existence, while exploring how those answers continue to inform our thinking in the present. Students gain a deeper understanding of philosophy's relevance to key contemporary issues—such as global warming, social justice and the defense of human rights, or the relationship between science and religion. Students can use this major as preparation for professions such as law or government service, as a pathway to graduate work, or to complement other interests by taking a double major in philosophy and a related field of study.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete at least 33 credits within the major, earning a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course. At least 21 credits must be at the 300 level or above, including at least 3 credits in PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)/PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>). If a course counts for the requirement in analytic or continental philosophy, and also for the ethics and political philosophy requirement, then both requirements are fulfilled with that course.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/>).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Core Courses without Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Logic		
PHIL 173	Logic and Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL 376	Symbolic Logic	
History of Philosophy		
PHIL 301	History of Western Philosophy: Ancient	3
PHIL 303	History of Western Philosophy: Modern	3
Analytic Tradition		
Select one course from the following: ¹		3
PHIL 332	Issues in Analytic Philosophy	
PHIL 333	American Philosophy: Pragmatism	

PHIL 338	Philosophy, Race, and Gender ²	
PHIL 355	Theories of Ethics	
PHIL 356	Philosophy of Art ²	
PHIL 357	Philosophy of the Social Sciences ²	
PHIL 358	Ethics and Economics	
PHIL 371	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences	
PHIL 373	Theory of Knowledge	
PHIL 374	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 411	Theories of Decision	
Continental Tradition		
Select one course from the following: ¹		3
PHIL 325	Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought	
PHIL 335	Nineteenth-Century Philosophy	
PHIL 336	Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Existentialism	
PHIL 337	Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Phenomenology	
PHIL 338	Philosophy, Race, and Gender ²	
PHIL 339	Recent Continental Philosophy	
PHIL 340	Hermeneutic Philosophy	
PHIL 356	Philosophy of Art	
PHIL 357	Philosophy of the Social Sciences ²	
Ethics and Social and Political Philosophy		
Select one course from the following: ¹		3
PHIL 305	Business Ethics	
PHIL 309	Bioethics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
PHIL 311	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 323	Classical Western Political Theory	
PHIL 324	Modern Western Political Theory	
PHIL 325	Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought	
PHIL 327	Contemporary Western Political Theory	
PHIL 329	Philosophy after Auschwitz	
PHIL 338	Philosophy, Race, and Gender	
PHIL 343	Topics in Environmental Philosophy (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
PHIL 344	Ethical Issues in Global Health	
PHIL 353	Theories of Justice	
PHIL 355	Theories of Ethics	
PHIL 358	Ethics and Economics	
PHIL 411	Theories of Decision	
PHIL 429	Advanced Topics in Social and Political Philosophy	
Total Credits		18

1

When the subject matter is appropriate and with the prior written approval of the undergraduate director, PHIL 391 Special Topics in Philosophy, PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), or PHIL 425 Independent Study may be used to fulfill this requirement.

2

Only with departmental approval.

Electives without Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Select five or six electives from any philosophy courses including those listed above that are not used to meet another requirement. ¹		15-18
Total Credits		15-18

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If both the analytic or continental philosophy and the ethics and political philosophy requirements are met with the same course, the student will complete six elective courses.

Optional Concentrations

Students interested in a degree in philosophy with a concentration will complete the coursework for one of the concentrations below.

Available Concentrations

- Concentration in Philosophy and Law (PHLW)
- Concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

Concentration in Philosophy and Law (PHLW)

The concentration in philosophy and law offers philosophy majors the opportunity to focus their study of philosophy in a way that prepares them for the study of the law.

In addition to the specific courses listed below, other relevant courses may be applied to the requirements for this concentration with prior written approval of the undergraduate director.

Code	Title	Credits
Logic		
PHIL 173	Logic and Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL 376	Symbolic Logic	
History of Philosophy		
PHIL 301	History of Western Philosophy: Ancient	3
PHIL 303	History of Western Philosophy: Modern	3
Analytic Tradition		
Select one course from the following: ¹		3
PHIL 332	Issues in Analytic Philosophy	
PHIL 333	American Philosophy: Pragmatism	
PHIL 338	Philosophy, Race, and Gender ²	
PHIL 355	Theories of Ethics	
PHIL 356	Philosophy of Art ²	
PHIL 357	Philosophy of the Social Sciences ²	
PHIL 358	Ethics and Economics	
PHIL 371	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences	
PHIL 373	Theory of Knowledge	

PHIL 374 Philosophy of Mind

PHIL 411 Theories of Decision

Continental Tradition

Select one course from the following: ¹ 3

PHIL 325 Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought

PHIL 335 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy

PHIL 336 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Existentialism

PHIL 337 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Phenomenology

PHIL 338 Philosophy, Race, and Gender ²

PHIL 339 Recent Continental Philosophy

PHIL 340 Hermeneutic Philosophy

PHIL 356 Philosophy of Art

PHIL 357 Philosophy of the Social Sciences ²

Philosophy and Law

PHIL 311 Philosophy of Law 3

Select two courses from the following: 6

PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory

PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory

PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory

PHIL 429 Advanced Topics in Social and Political Philosophy

GOVT 428 Advanced Democratic Theory

GOVT 448 Ethics and International Politics

Electives in Philosophy

Select three electives from any philosophy courses including those listed above that are not used to meet another requirement. 9

Total Credits 33

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When the subject matter is appropriate and with the prior written approval of the undergraduate director, PHIL 391 Special Topics in Philosophy, PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), or PHIL 425 Independent Study may be used to fulfill this requirement.

2

Only with departmental approval.

Concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

This is a high credit concentration for students interested in a program that explores the interdisciplinary connections between philosophy, political science, and economics.

Students pursuing this concentration, similar to all students pursuing a BA in philosophy, must complete at least 33 credits in philosophy earning a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course. No course may be used to fulfill more than one requirement. In addition to the specific courses listed below, other relevant courses may be applied to the requirements for this concentration with prior written approval of the undergraduate director.

Required Philosophy Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Logic		
PHIL 173	Logic and Critical Thinking	3

or PHIL 376 Symbolic Logic

History of Philosophy

PHIL 301	History of Western Philosophy: Ancient	3
PHIL 303	History of Western Philosophy: Modern	3

Analytic Tradition

Select one course from the following: ¹ 3

PHIL 332	Issues in Analytic Philosophy	
PHIL 333	American Philosophy: Pragmatism	
PHIL 338	Philosophy, Race, and Gender ²	
PHIL 355	Theories of Ethics	
PHIL 356	Philosophy of Art ²	
PHIL 357	Philosophy of the Social Sciences ²	
PHIL 358	Ethics and Economics	
PHIL 371	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences	
PHIL 373	Theory of Knowledge	
PHIL 374	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 411	Theories of Decision	

Continental Tradition

Select one course from the following: ¹ 3

PHIL 325	Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought	
PHIL 335	Nineteenth-Century Philosophy	
PHIL 336	Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Existentialism	
PHIL 337	Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Phenomenology	
PHIL 338	Philosophy, Race, and Gender ²	
PHIL 339	Recent Continental Philosophy	
PHIL 340	Hermeneutic Philosophy	
PHIL 356	Philosophy of Art	
PHIL 357	Philosophy of the Social Sciences ²	

Total Credits 15

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When the subject matter is appropriate and with the prior written approval of the undergraduate director, PHIL 391 Special Topics in Philosophy, PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), or PHIL 425 Independent Study may be used to fulfill this requirement.

2

Only with departmental approval.

Required Concentration Courses

Philosophy

Code	Title	Credits
Foundational		
Select one course from the following:		3
PHIL 324	Modern Western Political Theory	
or GOVT 324	Modern Western Political Theory	
PHIL 327	Contemporary Western Political Theory	
or GOVT 327	Contemporary Western Political Theory	
Electives		
Select two courses from the following:		6
PHIL 311	Philosophy of Law	

PHIL 357	Philosophy of the Social Sciences	
PHIL 358	Ethics and Economics	

Culminating

PHIL 353	Theories of Justice	3
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Total Credits 12

Politics

Code	Title	Credits
Foundational		
GOVT 133	Introduction to Comparative Politics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3

Electives

Select two courses from the following: 6

GOVT 301	Public Law and the Judicial Process	
GOVT 307	Legislative Behavior	
GOVT 308	The American Presidency	
GOVT 312	Political Parties and Campaigns	
GOVT 318	Interest Groups, Lobbying, and the Political Process	
GOVT 323	Classical Western Political Theory	
GOVT 331	Politics of Latin America	
GOVT 332	Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	
GOVT 334	Politics of Europe	
GOVT 338	Politics of Eurasia	
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	
GOVT 361	Introduction to Environmental Policy	
GOVT 364	Public Policy Making	
GOVT 366	Public Policy Analysis	
GOVT 367	Money, Markets and Economic Policy (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
GOVT 422	Constitutional Interpretation	
GOVT 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties	
GOVT 443	Law and Ethics of War	
GOVT 496	Directed Readings and Research	

Culminating

GOVT 467	How Washington Really Works	3
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Total Credits 12

Economics

Code	Title	Credits
Foundational		
ECON 103	Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ECON 104	Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3

Electives

Choose one course from the following: 3

ECON 306	Intermediate Microeconomics	
ECON 308	Managerial Economics and Strategy	

ECON 309	Economic Problems and Public Policies	
ECON 310	Money and Banking	
ECON 311	Intermediate Macroeconomics	
ECON 321	Economics of Labor	
ECON 330	Public Finance	
ECON 345	Introduction to Econometrics	
ECON 360	Economics of Developing Areas (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
ECON 365	Topics in Economic History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
ECON 390	International Economics	
ECON 403	Austrian Economics	
ECON 410	Public Choice	
ECON 412	Game Theory and Economics of Institutions	
ECON 445	Design and Analysis of Experiments	
ECON 481	The Development of Economic Thought	
ECON 485	Smithian Political Economy I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
ECON 496	Special Topics in Economics	
Culminating		
ECON 460	Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	3
Total Credits		12

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. All senior seminars (PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)) in philosophy are writing intensive. Philosophy majors should consult the undergraduate director for other courses that can be taken to fulfill this requirement.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		
		3
	PHIL (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/phil/) ¹	
	RELI (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/reli/)	

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Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253, RELI 235, RELI 333, and RELI 339 cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature>) requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) ¹		
		3

ANTH (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/anth/)
CRIM (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/crim/)
ECON (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/econ/)
GOVT (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/govt/)
HIST (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/hist/) ²
LING (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/ling/)
PSYC (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/psyc/)
SOCI (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/soci/)

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
GGS 103	Human Geography (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
GGS 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies
GGS 301	Political Geography (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
GGS 305	Economic Geography
GGS 306	Urban Geography
GGS 315	Geography of the United States
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America
GGS 320	Geography of Europe
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
GGS 326	Geography of Eastern Europe and Russia

GGG 357	Urban Planning
GGG 380	Geography of Virginia

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The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

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HIST 100 and HIST 125 may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Code	Title	Credits
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Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by:¹

Completing 3 credits in a foreign language numbered 202 (or higher level courses taught in the language) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/modern-classical-languages/>)

Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test

Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:

EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I
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EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II
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EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III
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Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu/>).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
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Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement)¹

ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
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ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 314	Zombies	3
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ANTH 317	East Asian Cultures	3
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ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
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ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
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ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3
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ARAB 365	Black and Minority Cultures in Arabic Literature (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3
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ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 317	The Black Pharaohs: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Nubia (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3
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ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3
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CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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CHIN 470	Special Topics in Chinese Studies	3
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DANC 118	Global Dance Perspectives I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3	HIST 364	Revolution in Latin America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GGG 317	Geography of China (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3	HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3
GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3	HIST 377	The Vietnam War (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GOVT 332	Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3	HIST 384	Global History of Christianity (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GOVT 333	Politics of East Asia	3	HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3-6
GOVT 338	Politics of Eurasia	3	HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3	HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3	HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3	JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3	JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	JAPA 380	Japan in Motion	3
HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	KORE 300	Korean Culture and Society	3
HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3
HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	KORE 385	Introduction to Korean Linguistics	3
HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 211	Introduction to Religions of the "West" (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 212	Introduction to Religions of Asia (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 312	Islam (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 326	Stalinism	3	RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3	RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3
HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 317	Daoism	3
HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3	RELI 318	Korean Philosophy and Religions	3
HIST 354	Modern China (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 338	Qur'an and Hadith	3
HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 342	Comparative Study of Mysticism	3
			RELI 344	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3
			RELI 358	Islamic Thought (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3

RELI 367	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3	Global History (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-history)	3
RELI 368	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	Literature (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature)	3
RELI 384	Global History of Christianity (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	Natural Science (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science)	7
RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	Social and Behavioral Sciences (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#social-behavioral-science)	3
RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	Just Societies (optional) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#justsocieties) ¹	
RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	Integration Requirements	
WMST 407	Transnational Sexualities	3	Written Communication (upper-level) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written)	3
			Writing Intensive (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#wi) ²	3
			Mason Apex (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#apex) ³	3
			Total Credits	40

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A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global>) requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu/>).

Mason Core

Some Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) requirements.

Students who have completed the following credentials are eligible for a waiver of the Foundation and Exploration (lower level) requirement categories. The Integration category (upper level) is not waived under this policy. See Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-policies/#transfertext>) for more information.

- VCCS Uniform Certificate of General Studies
- VCCS or Richard Bland Associate of Science (A.S.), Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Arts and Sciences (A.A.&S.), or Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.)

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication (lower-level) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written)	3
	Oral Communication (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral)	3
	Quantitative Reasoning (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative)	3
	Information Technology and Computing (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#information-technology)	3
Exploration Requirements		
	Arts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts)	3
	Global Contexts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-contexts)	3

1

In addition to covering content related to the designated category, Exploration level courses marked with a *Just Societies* "flag" are specifically designed to help students learn how to interact effectively with others from all walks of life, including those with backgrounds and beliefs that differ from their own. Courses marked with the Just Societies flag are available for students starting in Fall 2024. Students admitted prior to the Fall of 2025 are not required to take courses with a Just Societies flag but may wish to do so to increase their knowledge and skills in this important area. Students interested in this approach to completing their Mason Core Exploration Requirements should work closely with their advisor to identify the appropriate Just Societies-flagged courses.

2

Most programs include the writing-intensive course designated for the major as part of the major requirements; this course is therefore not counted towards the total required for Mason Core.

3

Minimum 3 credits required.

4-Year Plan

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy Sample Plan of Study

A sample four year graduation plan and degree planning worksheet can be found at <https://academicaffairs.chss.gmu.edu/undergraduate-students/advising/advising-sheets> (<https://academicaffairs.chss.gmu.edu/undergraduate-students/advising/advising-sheets/>). The plan is a recommended sequencing of courses based on prerequisites and scheduling. This may not fit every student's needs and is a guideline, not a requirement. Students should confirm major requirements with their academic advisor each semester and with their PatriotWeb Degree Evaluation to ensure they enroll in the proper courses and are on track to graduate.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Highly-qualified students may apply to the honors program in the major. Students can apply in their second semester as a junior, before they

have completed 90 credits and should have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major. Eligible students should submit a brief letter of application, explaining why they wish to graduate with honors; their most up-to-date transcript; one letter of recommendation from a member of the philosophy faculty; and one writing sample, a paper from one of the student's courses in philosophy.

To receive honors in the major, students must complete 3 credits of PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) and 3 additional credits in any 400-level philosophy course or a philosophy graduate course that can be taken for undergraduate credit. To graduate with honors in philosophy, students must complete these courses with a minimum GPA of 3.50.

Program Outcomes

Program Outcomes

1. Students will be able to produce written work that conforms to the Department's agreed-upon standards for good writing in philosophy.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the philosophical tradition and how that tradition is carried on or engaged with in the field today.
3. Students will in their written work show evidence of their capacity for analytical, synthetic and critical thinking.
4. Students will in their written work show awareness of how philosophical thinking illuminates other areas of discourse.
5. Students will be able to demonstrate a capacity to think clearly and deeply about key social, political and/or ethical issues and to make well founded judgments in the relevant areas.

Accelerated Master's

The accelerated master's program listed below specifies the BA in philosophy as a feeder degree for its program. Many other accelerated master's programs are also available for any bachelor's degree at Mason. See the full list of degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/programs/#filter=filter_24) with accelerated programs at George Mason.

Philosophy, BA/Philosophy, Accelerated MA

Overview

Highly-qualified Mason undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor's/accelerated master's program and obtain a BA in Philosophy and an MA in Philosophy in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 139 credits.

See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) for policies related to this program.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and Bachelor's Accelerated Master's Degree policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>). For information specific to this accelerated master's program, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<https://philosophy.gmu.edu/programs/la-ma-acel-phil/>) on the departmental website.

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits and after completing the following:

- 9 upper level credits in philosophy.
- At least two of the following with a grade of B or higher in each: PHIL 301 History of Western Philosophy: Ancient, PHIL 303 History of Western Philosophy: Modern, or PHIL 173 Logic and Critical Thinking

Students who are accepted in the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits.

Accelerated Master's Admissions Requirements

Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MA program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form:

- Minimum overall GPA of 3.25
- Successfully meeting Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following:

Advanced Standing courses (up to 12 credits)

600-level PHIL courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/phil/>), with the exception of PHIL 600 Proseminar in Philosophy and PHIL 693 Directed Readings in Philosophy, with the advice and approval of the department.

Advanced standing courses may fulfill the requirement in the BA in Philosophy for Analytic Tradition, Continental Tradition, or Ethics and Social and Political Philosophy, if content is appropriate and with permission of the department.

Reserve Graduate Credit courses (up to 6 credits) taken while an undergraduate and will only count for the graduate degree program

600-level PHIL courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/phil/>), with the exception of PHIL 600 Proseminar in Philosophy and PHIL 693 Directed Readings in Philosophy, with the advice and approval of the department

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements see AP.6.7 Bachelor's Accelerated Master's Degree (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies.