

ACADEMIC ROADMAP

Philosophy Major, B.A.

Revised Spring 2026

Freshman Year (30 credits)

FIRST SEMESTER

Course Title	Catalog Number	Prerequisite(s)
College Writing I	CWP 101	
Foundational PHI Requirement	PHI 101/110; PHI 102; PHI 111/112/113/ 115	
Any GE23 Course		
Any GE23 Course		
Any GE23 Course		

SECOND SEMESTER

Course Title	Catalog Number	Prerequisite(s)
College Writing II	CWP 102	
PHI Logic Requirement	PHI 103 or 107	
Foundational PHI Requirement	PHI 101/110; PHI 102; PHI 111/112/113/ 115	
Any GE23 Course		
Any GE23 Course		

General Education:

- Your first two years of undergraduate study should be devoted to your general education. These foundational or “core” courses are essential for a liberal education, which fosters critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills necessary for informed citizenship. They also allow students to explore different fields and disciplines as candidates for a minor or second major. A well-rounded liberal education aimed at self-knowledge will inspire a lifelong love of learning and is maximally adaptable to any career or profession
- General Education courses that complement the Philosophy major include:
 - Arts: AAD 251, MUS 201, MUS 210
 - Diversity: PSC 225, PLN 215
 - Humanities: PHI 101, PHI 102, PHI 110, PHI 111, PHI 112, PHI 113, PHI 115, ENG 205, ENG 206
 - Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning: PHI 103, PHI 107, MAT 114, MAT 161, MAT 311
 - Natural Sciences: ANT 100, BIO 100, CHE 100, GES 131, PHY 100
 - Social Sciences: PSC 101, PSC 104, PSY 101
 - US History and Civic Engagement: PSC 102
 - World History and Global Awareness: PHI 301, PSC 351, PSC 352
- Indulge your curiosity and challenge yourself with a wide variety of courses. Courses in any subject can inform your philosophy education and give you additional contexts in which to apply philosophy.
- Consider cross-registering at UB to study another language
<https://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/academics/academic-opportunities/languages.html>

Recommendations:

- Get to know your professors – students who do end up doing better in college. Set a goal to attend at least one faculty office hour for each course.
- Visit Academic Commons in the library (Math & Writing Centers, tutoring), join a study group & monitor your degree audit sheet in Degree Works
- Travel: Consider a summer Service Learning Opportunity through SUNY: e.g., [Nicaragua Winter Service-Learning Program](#), [Peru Service-Learning Summer Program](#)
- Start attending the Philosophy Faculty/Student Colloquium (see Dr. Blessing blessika@buffalostate.edu)

- Join at least one student group -- USG is a good place to start usg.buffalostate.edu.

Notes:

- PHI 101, 110, PHI 102, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 115 are the foundational PHI requirements. Each also satisfies the GE23 Humanities requirement.
- PHI 103 and PHI 107 satisfy the GE23 Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning requirement.
- PHI 301 satisfies the GE23 World History and Global Awareness requirement.
- Only two PHI courses may “double dip” and be counted toward BOTH the major and the GE23 requirements, so students should consult with their advisor and be strategic about their GE23 choices

Sophomore Year (60 credits)

THIRD SEMESTER

Course Title	Catalog Number	Prerequisite(s)
Foundational PHI Requirement	PHI 101/110; PHI 102; PHI 111/112/113/ 115	
Any GE23 Course		
Any GE23 Course		
Any GE23 Course		
All College Elective		

FOURTH SEMESTER

Course Title	Catalog Number	Prerequisite(s)
PHI Requirement	PHI 301 or 304 or 314 or 333	CWP 102 or one PHI course
Any GE23 Course		
Any GE23 Course		
All College Elective		
All College Elective		

Recommendations:

- Travel: Start thinking about a semester or year studying abroad in your junior year– students are eligible to participate in over 300 options via SUNY <https://buffalostate.globalcampus.app/programs/?type=16> or consider National Student Exchange <https://nse.org/>. More info: studyaway@buffalostate.edu
- All Philosophy majors are encouraged to enroll in a second major or a minor and should consider replacing “All College” electives (or GE23 course slots) with work toward that second major or minor. Students have done well combining Philosophy and Political Science (superb preparation for law school) Philosophy and Biology (perfect for health), Philosophy and Music (overlap in concepts, history, and theory), Philosophy and Anthropology (overlap in fundamental concepts), Philosophy and English
- Join at least one student group -- USG is a good place to start, usg.buffalostate.edu.
- Consider serving as a commentator for Philosophy Faculty/Student Colloquium (see Dr. Blessing blessika@buffalostate.edu)
- Ask your advisor or Department chair about the Philosophy Honors Program.

Junior Year (90 credits)

FIFTH SEMESTER

Course Title	Catalog Number	Prerequisite(s)
PHI Requirement	PHI 308 or 361	CWP 102 or one PHI course
All College Elective		
All College Elective		
All College Elective		
All College Elective		

SIXTH SEMESTER

Course Title	Catalog Number	Prerequisite(s)
PHI Requirement	PHI 324 or 360	CWP 102 or one PHI course
All College Elective		
All College Elective		
All College Elective		
All College Elective		

Recommendations:

- Travel: For more information on international and domestic study studyaway@buffalostate.edu
- Visit the Career Development Center; talk to your faculty advisor about graduate school options
- Explore Undergraduate Research opportunities <https://undergraduateresearch.buffalostate.edu/>
- Consider presenting work for the Philosophy Faculty/Student Colloquium (see Dr. Blessing blessika@buffalostate.edu)
- Ask your advisor or Department Chair about Independent Studies in philosophy.

Notes:

- The upper-level Philosophy Requirement disjunctions may be satisfied in any order, but PHI 300, 312, 314, 333, and 336 may usefully be thought of as more specialized and thus as more suitable for later in your academic career.
- Many upper-level courses taught by Professors McGovern, Sarwari, Shauku, Ben-Merre, or Abromeit are excellent choices for All College Electives. Talk to your Philosophy advisor about these opportunities.

Senior Year (120 credits)

SEVENTH SEMESTER

Course Title	Catalog Number	Prerequisite(s)
PHI Requirement	PHI 300 or 312 or 336	CWP 102 or one PHI course
Upper Division PHI Elective	Any PHI 3xx course	CWP 102 or one PHI course
All College Elective		
All College Elective		
All College Elective		

EIGHTH SEMESTER

Course Title	Catalog Number	Prerequisite(s)
Upper Division PHI Elective	Any PHI 3xx course	CWP 102 or one PHI course
All College Elective		
All College Elective		
All College Elective		
All College Elective		

Recommendations:

- Students should take at least one but no more than three PHI courses per semester.
- Apply for graduation; apply to graduate school, if applicable; visit the Career Development Center to have your resume reviewed
- Consider presenting work for the Philosophy Faculty/Student Colloquium (email Dr. Blessing, blessika@buffalostate.edu). If you've presented work and it went well, consider submitting work to undergraduate philosophy conferences – see your philosophy advisor or Department chair for more information.