PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

The mission of Saint Louis University's Department of Philosophy (https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/philosophy/) is to provide a philosophical education appropriate to Catholic and Jesuit education goals (https://www.slu.edu/about/catholic-jesuit-identity/). This goal is rooted in the fundamental Catholic belief that all human experience reveals and speaks to the existence and nature of God and the dignity and value of all human beings in themselves and as members of the human community.

The department strives to provide an excellent introduction to the discipline and practice of philosophy. The faculty seeks to build up in students the ability to understand, explain and evaluate lines of reasoning; to foster a reflective moral life; and to educate them on the history of philosophy, contemporary philosophical debate and the Catholic heritage. The faculty nurture in each student a philosophical habit of mind, an appreciation for the Western philosophical tradition, a spirit of intellectual inquiry and a lifelong desire for wisdom.

Curriculum Overview

The Department of Philosophy in SLU's College of Arts and Sciences (https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/) offers a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy that provides students with a solid foundation in critical philosophical thinking while leaving significant room to focus on their interests in philosophy.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

The department offers a wide range of opportunities for philosophical exchange and dialogue, both within the intellectual community of the University and with the broader philosophical community. These opportunities include visiting scholars, departmental colloquia, the annual Wade Memorial Lecture, various conferences, reading groups and graduate student talks.

- Students can get to know other philosophy majors through the Philosophy Club.
- The Vatican Microfilm Library, located on campus, is the finest resource in the United States for medieval and Renaissance studies research.
- The Department of Philosophy has an internationally regarded journal.

Careers

The benefits of SLU's philosophy program include several career opportunities. Students who pursue a degree in philosophy at SLU will find themselves well-prepared for many career options. Philosophy provides, for example, excellent training for those interested in pursuing professional degrees in law, business or medicine.

Not only do philosophy majors at SLU excel on entrance exams for professional programs, but the analytical and communication skills they develop in their philosophical studies are essential for their future success in these programs. The study of philosophy is excellent preparation for any career that focuses on clarity, concision and analytic reasoning.

Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application.

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/)
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships**: Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid**: Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.
Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2022, 99% of first-time freshmen and 90% of all students received financial aid (https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/) and students received more than $445 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by December 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit www.slu.edu/financial-aid (https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/).

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Graduates will be able to synthesize knowledge of two different periods of Western philosophy.
2. Graduates will be able to correctly employ principles of logical reasoning in philosophical analysis.
3. Graduates will be able to analyze and defend a philosophical position on a philosophical problem.
4. Graduates will be able to gather sources relevant to a philosophical problem.
5. Graduates will be able to interpret sources relevant to a philosophical problem.
6. Graduates will be able to synthesize sources relevant to a philosophical problem.

**Requirements**

Philosophy students must complete a minimum total of 30 credits for the major.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Undergraduate Core (<a href="https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/">https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/</a>)</td>
<td>32-35</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Major Requirements</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 1050</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CORE 1700</td>
<td>Ultimate Questions: Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 2050</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 4040</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 4880</td>
<td>Senior Inquiry: Project</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>History of Philosophy Requirement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose two courses with the History of Philosophy attributes, such as:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 4400</td>
<td>History of Ancient Greek Philosophy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 4500</td>
<td>Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 4600</td>
<td>History of Modern Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Philosophy Electives</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Two courses must be at the 4000 level (p. 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Electives</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>55-58</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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**Continuation Standards**

Students must have a GPA of 2.00 in philosophy major coursework to be retained in the major.

**Graduation Requirements**

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses numbered below 1000).
• Complete the University Undergraduate Core curriculum requirements.
• Complete major requirements: minimum of 30 credits required.
• Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate and/or electives to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.
• Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s), and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate, or related elective credits.
• Complete department-/program-specific academic and performance requirements.
• Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
• Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
• Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

### Year One

#### Fall
- CORE 1700: Ultimate Questions: Philosophy - 3 credits
- CORE 1000: Ignite First Year Seminar - 2-3 credits
- CORE 1500: Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community - 1 credit
- CORE 1900: Eloquientia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication - 3 credits
- CORE 1200: Eloquientia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication - 3 credits
- General Electives - 3 credits

#### Spring
- PHIL 2050: Ethics (meets Core “Dignity, Ethics, & Just Society” attribute requirement) - 3 credits
- CORE 2800: Eloquientia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression - 2-3 credits
- CORE 3200: Ways of Thinking: Quantitative Reasoning - 3 credits
- CORE 1600: Ultimate Questions: Theology - 3 credits
- General Electives - 4 credits

#### Credits

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 1200</td>
<td>Eloquientia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Year Two

#### Fall
- PHIL 4080: Symbolic Logic - 3 credits
- CORE 3800: Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences - 3 credits
- CORE 3400: Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture - 3 credits
- CORE 2500: Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation - 0 credits
- General Electives - 6 credits

#### Spring
- PHIL 4400: History of Ancient Greek Philosophy - 3 credits
- CORE 3600: Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences - 3 credits
- General Electives - 9 credits

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<td>Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences</td>
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<td>CORE 3400</td>
<td>Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE 2500</td>
<td>Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation</td>
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</table>

### Year Three

#### Fall
- PHIL 4500: Medieval Philosophy - 3 credits
- PHIL 3350: Philosophy and Good Life - 3 credits
- CORE 4000: Collaborative Inquiry - 2-3 credits
- General Electives - 7 credits

#### Spring
- PHIL 3250: Philosophy of Religion - 3 credits
- PHIL 4160: Philosophy and Physics - 3 credits
- General Electives - 9 credits

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<td>Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 3350</td>
<td>Philosophy and Good Life</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE 4000</td>
<td>Collaborative Inquiry</td>
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### Year Four

#### Fall
- PHIL 4210: Topics in Metaphysics - 3 credits
- CORE 3500: Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World - 1 credit
- General Electives - 11 credits

#### Spring
- PHIL 4880: Senior Inquiry: Project - 3 credits
- General Electives - 12 credits

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<td>Topics in Metaphysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 3500</td>
<td>Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World</td>
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### Madrid

Students can complete all or part of the B.A. in Philosophy at SLU’s campus in Madrid, with one semester of study in St. Louis required.


### 2+SLU

2+SLU programs are formal transfer agreements for students seeking an associate degree at a partner institution.

- Philosophy, B.A. (STLCC 2+SLU) (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2plusslu/stlcc/philosophy/)