

Undergraduate Philosophy

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
- Bachelor of Science in Philosophy

Specializations

- BA with Law Specialization

Philosophy at SIUE

At SIUE, pursuing a degree in philosophy allows you to follow your interests. Classes are centered on discussion so you can be an active participant every day. In order to develop your ability to solve complex problems, generate ideas, communicate clearly, respond to others, adapt to change, and think creatively, faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Philosophy will challenge you throughout your course of study. Being challenged each day helps students develop deep analytical skills that will translate into everyday life, as well as their chosen profession.

What is Philosophy?

Philosophy is the attempt to think carefully, critically, and systematically about the most challenging questions that face humanity. Philosophy is the oldest academic discipline, with roots that trace to ancient Greece and to thinkers who asked probing questions about themselves and the world around them. Philosophy is called “the queen of the sciences” because every major academic discipline—from math to psychology—was part of philosophy at one time. Philosophy continues to spawn new cutting edge fields, such as cognitive science. Some classic philosophical questions include:

- What is a person?
- What is virtue?
- What makes something just or unjust?
- What are minds and bodies, and how are they related?
- What is knowledge, and how is it best acquired?
- What makes something good or beautiful?

Career Opportunities

The focus on clear thinking and writing prepares students for a wide range of careers, including law, medicine, bioethics, finance, diplomacy, journalism, public relations and business. Philosophy students tend to score higher on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and the verbal and analytical writing portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) than students from other majors, and are among the highest scorers on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Famous philosophy majors include: Thomas Jefferson, Carl Icahn, George Soros, David Souter, Steven Colbert, Mary Higgins Clark, Phil Jackson and Bruce Lee. Philosophy majors can end up wherever they desire since the basic skills they develop help ensure they will thrive wherever their interests take them.

Philosophy as Pre-Law Preparation

The Philosophy major offers excellent preparation for law school because it excels at teaching the skills used in law school and in legal professions. On average, philosophy majors tend to excel on the LSAT, and philosophy majors have a high law school admission rate. The Department of Philosophy offers a bachelor of arts in philosophy with a specialization in law that specifies 15 hours of 33 required credit hours to complete the philosophy major. By including this coursework, the BA in Philosophy with a Law specialization is designed to guide students toward curricular decisions that will facilitate their future success in law school and in subsequent legal professions.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science program, students must:

- Complete all Academic Development courses required by the University.
- Complete any courses required to address high school deficiencies.
- Complete RA 101, PHIL 212 or PHIL 213 with a grade of C or better (Note: RA 101 does not count for credit toward the major in philosophy).

Graduation Requirements

- Complete all specific program requirements.
- Complete all University requirements, including:
 - All general education requirements
 - A minimum of 120 credit hours
 - At least 30 of which must be completed at SIUE
 - At least 60 of which must be completed at a regionally accredited 4-year institution
 - A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0
 - Bachelor of Arts only: one (1) year of the same foreign language
 - Bachelor of Science only: one (1) additional lab experience course
- File an Application for Graduation by the first day of the term in which you plan to graduate.

SIUE

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Philosophy

Faculty

Matthew C. Cashen, PhD

2007, Washington University

Michelle E. Catalano, MA

2010, University of Missouri - St. Louis

Judith K. Crane, PhD

1999, Tulane University

Raymond C. Darr, MA

1984, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Susan C. Dieleman, PhD

2011, York University

Saba Fatima, PhD

2012, Binghamton University

Gregory P. Fields, PhD

1994, University of Hawaii

Richard J. Fry, PhD

2013, Georgetown University

Erik R. Krag, PhD

2012, University of Tennessee

William S. Larkin, PhD

1998, University of California - Santa Barbara

Bryan L. Lueck, PhD

2007, The Pennsylvania State University

Greg Littmann, PhD

2004, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Erik J. Meade, MA

2001, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Christopher H. Pearson, PhD

2007, University of Washington

Alison Reiheld, PhD

2010, Michigan State University

Edward W. Schallert, MA

1990, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Matthew Schunke, PhD

2009, Rice University

Robert Ware, DPhil

1995, Oxford University

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Sample Four-Year Curriculum

Sample Curriculum for the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a Specialization in Law

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Year 1	ENG 101 English Composition I 3 LAT 101 or other Foreign Language 101 (BICS) 4 RA 101 Reasoning and Argumentation, or PHIL 212 3 QR 101 Quantitative Reasoning, or MATH 150 or higher 3 New Freshman Seminar 3 Total Credits 16	ENG 102 English Composition II 3 LAT 102 or Foreign Language 102 (BICS, EGC) 4 ACS 101 or 103 Oral Expression 3 Breadth Life Science (BLS) 3 PHIL 213-Intro to Deductive Logic (BICS) 3 Total Credits 16
Year 2	PHIL 300 (BHUM, EGC) 3 Breadth Fine and Performing Arts (BFPA) 3 Breadth Physical Science (BPS) 3 Life, Physical or Social Science with a Lab Experience (EL) 1 Breadth Social Science (BSS) 3 Health Experience (EH) 1 Total Credits 14	PHIL 307 or PHIL 304 (BHUM) 3 PHIL 320 Ethics or PHIL 343 Philosophy of Law 3 Minor 3 Minor 3 Experience United States Culture (EUSC) Elective 3 Total Credits 15
Year 3	PHIL 320 Ethics or PHIL 343 Philosophy of Law 3 PHIL 310 Theories of Knowledge or PHIL 355 Philosophy of Language 3 Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) 3 Minor 3 Minor 3 Total Credits 15	PHIL (Cultural Pluralism) (BHUM) 3 PHIL (Religion) (BHUM) 3 PHIL (Political and Legal Theory) (BHUM) 3 Minor 3 Minor 3 Total Credits 15
Year 4	PHIL 480 Senior Assignment (SRA) 3 Minor/Elective 3 Minor/Elective 3 Elective 3 Elective 3 Total Credits 15	PHIL 490 Philosophy Seminar 3 Elective 3 Elective 3 Elective 3 Elective 2 Total Credits 14

Transfer Students To maximize your transfer experience, complete the **bolded** courses/requirements pre-transfer **AND** satisfy either the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) General Ed Core or receive an AA, AS, or AAT (early childhood, special ed or math) degree from an IAI community college. If 'Minor' requirements are shown, discuss careful course selection with the academic advising contact listed. Transfer Credit Equivalency Guides are located at siue.edu/transfer.

Sample Four-Year Curriculum

Bachelor of Science in Philosophy

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Year 1	ENG 101 English Composition I 3 RA 101 Reasoning and Argumentation, or PHIL 212 3 QR 101 Quantitative Reasoning or MATH 150 or higher 3 Breadth Social Sciences (BSS) 3 New Freshman Seminar 3 Total Credits 15	ENG 102 English Composition II 3 ACS 101 Public Speaking 3 Life Science (BLS) 3 100-200 Level PHIL Elective 3 Breadth Information and Communication in Society (BICS) (PHIL 213) 3 Total Credits 15
Year 2	PHIL 300 (BHUM, EGC) 3 Breadth Fine and Performing Arts (BFPA) 3 Breadth Physical Science (BPS) 3 Breadth Life, Physical or Social Science (BLS, BPS or BSS) 3 Life, Physical or Social Science with a Lab Experience (EL) 1 Minor 3 Total Credits 16	PHIL 304 or PHIL 307 3 PHIL (Value Theory) 3 Breadth Life, Physical or Social Sciences (BLS, BPS or BSS) 3 Life, Physical or Social Sciences with Lab Experience (EL) 1 Minor 3 Health Experience (EH) 1 Total Credits 14
Year 3	PHIL (Metaphysics and Epistemology) 3 PHIL Elective 3 Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) 3 Breadth Life, Physical or Social Science (BLS, BPS or BSS) 3 Minor 3 Total Credits 15	PHIL (Cultural Pluralism) (EUSC) 3 PHIL (Religion) 3 Breadth Life, Physical or Social Science (BLS, BPS or BSS) 3 Minor 3 Minor 3 Total Credits 15
Year 4	PHIL 480 Senior Assignment (SRA) 3 Breadth Life, Physical or Social Science (BLS, BPS or BSS) 3 Minor 3 Minor/Elective 3 Minor/Elective 3 Total Credits 15	PHIL 490 Philosophy Seminar 3 Elective 3 Elective 3 Elective 3 Elective 3 Total Credits 15

Contact Information

Department of Philosophy | College of Arts and Sciences
 Phone: 618-650-2250

This information is concurrent with the 2018-2019 Academic Catalog.
 Courses are subject to change at any time.