

Contact

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Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (*including biology*)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language (*same language or two years of American Sign Language-ASL*)
- Academic electives (*to equal at least 17 total credits*)

To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.

Major Requirements

A minimum of 30 credits including at least 21 credits Philosophy upper level

Credits must include:

- 3 credits PHI 200
- 3 credits Logic: PHI 103 or PHI 250
- 9 credits History of Philosophy:
 PHI 210, PHI 312, and one of the following: PHI 286, PHI 287, PHI 317, PHI 342, PHI 343, or PHI 420
- 3 credits PHI 475

120 Minimum total credit hours required for graduation

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Program Description

The goal of the Philosophy program is to initiate students into active participation in the life of the mind. Philosophy helps students to develop both their skills and their desire to think critically, to analyze ethical issues systematically, and to explore our perennial questions about the nature of the world, the political community, and the self. Philosophy also addresses theoretical issues that cut across disciplinary boundaries, thereby linking Philosophy to the natural and social sciences, to the arts, and to other humanities. The study of Philosophy requires analytical writing, critical reading, and practice in formulating and analyzing intellectual problems and proposed solutions. These are skills that generalize very well to a wide variety of professions, careers, and areas of graduate study.

The Philosophy curriculum includes the history of Western philosophy; ethics; aesthetics; legal, social, and political philosophy; critical reasoning, logic, and the philosophy of language; philosophy of mind and science; phenomenology and existentialism; feminist theory; Hindu and Buddhist philosophy and religion; and business, medical, and environmental ethics.

Career Opportunities

Philosophy majors often double up with political science, journalism, English, history, psychology or some other major. They are valued in professions such as law, medicine, government and others for their liberal learning, their ability to think and communicate, and their grasp of human nature and values. Many progressive corporations also look to Philosophy majors for their executive and administrative promise due to such skills. About one-quarter of MAINE Philosophy graduates are employed in the corporate sector; several are owners of companies and CEOs. Philosophy majors may go on to graduate studies elsewhere in Philosophy. In Maine, they are found among mental health officials, school principals, social workers, environmental protection authorities and practicing lawyers, to name a few.

General Education Requirements*

- ENG 101 College Composition
- 18 credits Human Values & Social Context area (*a single course may satisfy more than 1 sub-category, but a total of 18 credits must be completed*)
 - Western Cultural Tradition
 - Social Context & Institutions
 - Cultural Diversity & International Perspectives
 - Population & the Environment
 - Artistic & Creative Expression
- 2 courses Designated Writing Intensive (*1 must be within the major*)
- 2 courses Biological or Physical Sciences (*must include at least 1 laboratory course*)
- 1 course Ethics (*emphasis on discussion of ethical issues in 1 course or series of courses*)
- 6 credits Mathematics (*including statistics & some computer science, only 3 credits in computer science can count toward this requirement*)
- 1 capstone An approved experience in which the student integrates the components of his or her undergraduate training to perform at a professional level. The capstone experience is usually completed during the senior year in consultation with the student's academic advisor.

**All UMaine students must complete these general education requirements, which are counted in the total credit hours required for graduation and may be contained in the Major Requirements previously listed.*

Specialized Information

The Department of Philosophy offers two different minors, in addition to its major: a Minor in Philosophy, and a Minor in Ethics, and Social and Political Philosophy. Both minors are open to all undergraduate, degree-seeking students at the University of Maine, and both require the completion of 18 credit hours of Philosophy courses.

With a reputation for dedicated, effective teaching and deep concern for the welfare of its students, the Philosophy Department has a growing number of majors, double majors, and minors.

Located in the historic frame building called The Maples, the department offers a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum. Distinguished external reviewers in 1986 and again in 1994 found the department's offerings in the history of Western Philosophy, together with offerings in aesthetics, philosophy of law, feminist theory, applied ethics, political philosophy, and Hindu and Buddhist philosophies to be remarkable, if not unique in the country.

With its strong commitment to interdisciplinary studies, the department has played a key role in Honors, the pre-law program, the Religious Studies minor, the Master of Liberal Arts graduate degree program, Women's Studies and Women in the Curriculum, and contributes supporting courses to other majors in areas such as art, nursing, and the environmental sciences. The Department also sponsors an active colloquium series each year, the Student Philosophical Society, and a branch of Phi Sigma Tau, the national Philosophy Honors society.

Department faculty members have been recognized on campus by receipt of the Distinguished Maine Professor Award and the Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award. Faculty have published numerous books and journal articles in their areas of expertise, and received Smithsonian and Fulbright Fellowships, as well as grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. They also contribute actively to faculty self-governance at the University. All faculty members in the Department are active presenters at conferences and several serve as journal editors and officers in academic societies and organizations.

Nationally, Philosophy majors, as a group, had higher mean scores on the Graduate Record Examination Verbal Section than students in any other major. And only Philosophy majors were five percent or more above the mean on the LSAT (law), GMAT (graduate management), GRE Verbal and GRE Quantitative examinations.

Academic Programs 2008-2009

Please refer to the web site (<http://factsheets.umaine.edu/>) for the most updated version of the fact sheets.

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.