Bachelor of Art in Philosophy

Howard University

College of Arts & Sciences

Catalog: Fall 2023 – Present

Quick Summary - What You Need to Graduate

Total Credits	Minimum GPA	Philosophy Credits	Minor Credits	Last 30 Credits
120	2.0	36	15-18 2.0 GPA	At Howard

- ☐ **Your Degree Breakdown:**
- ☐ Major Requirements: 36 Philosophy credits (12 courses)
- ☐ General Education: 30 credits (approximately 15 courses)
- ☐ Minor: 15-18 credits (5-7 courses, 2.0 GPA)
- ☐ Math Requirements: Math 005 or higher 3-4 credits (1 course)
- ☐ Free Electives: Remaining credits to reach 120 (varies by track)
- ☐ Complete all 7 ELOs (can overlap with courses)
- ☐ COAS Experiential (1 course) & COAS Innovative Learning (1 course)
- ☐ Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Important: Double-Dipping Made Simple!

One course can fulfill BOTH a General Education requirement AND an Essential Learning Outcome (ELO) at the same time. You don't need separate courses for each! This helps you graduate efficiently without taking extra classes.

Major credits **cannot** be double dipped with minor credits. Minors require **15–18 credits that are not applied to their major requirements**. Minor coursework must remain distinct and separate from major coursework.

University-Wide Requirements

- ☐ **Minimum GPA:** 2.0 for all undergraduate coursework
- ☐ **Residency:** Complete last 30 credits at Howard University
- ☐ **Exit Requirement:** Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- ☐ **Total Credits:** 120 credits required

General Education Requirements (30 Credits / ~15 Courses)

Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

Students must complete courses covering all seven outcome areas. Remember, these can overlap with other requirements!

- ☐ **ELO 1:** U.S. and Global African Diasporic Developments
- ☐ **ELO 2:** Human Cultures and Creative Expression
- ☐ **ELO 3:** The Physical and Natural World
- ☐ **ELO 4:** Intellectual and Practical Skills
- ☐ **ELO 5:** Social Responsibility and Political Institutions
- ☐ **ELO 6:** Leadership and Applied Learning
- ☐ **ELO 7:** Comprehensive Wellness Practices

Note: ELO courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Freshman Experience (1 Credit / 1 Course)

- **FRSM 001** - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)

Core Writing & Communication (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- ☐ **ENGW 101, 102, or 104 -** First-Year English Writing I (3 credits)
- ☐ **ENGW 103 or 105 -** First-Year English Writing II (3 credits)
- ☐ **Third Writing Course** - Upper-level writing (3 credits)
- ☐ **COMM 101**- Principles of Speech (3 credits)

Mathematics (3-4 Credits / 1 Course)

- **MATH 005 or higher** - College Algebra I or higher (3 credits)

Health & Wellness (2 Credit/ 1 Course)

- **HHPL –** Activity/Health Course (2 credits)

Cultural and Global Awareness (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **African American Cluster Course** - (3 credits)
- **Foreign Language** - 3 courses (9 credits total, same language)
    - 1 course can be substituted for intercultural knowledge course

Humanities & Social Sciences (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- **Two Humanities Courses** - (3 credits each)
- **Two Social Science Courses** - (3 credits each)

Natural Sciences (6-8 Credits / 2 Courses)

- **Two Natural Science Courses** (6-8 credits)

COAS Special Requirements

Experiential Learning (1 course required)

Examples of COAS Experiential Learning Course but are not limited to:

- ☐ Internship
- ☐ Any 890 course
- ☐ Study abroad

Innovative Learning Requirement (1 course required)

- ☐ Complete at least one course marked as 'innovative'

Note: COAS Special Requirements courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Minor Requirement (15-18 Credits / 5-6 Courses)

Choose a minor in a different department

- **Minor Course** - Introductory course in different department (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)

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Philosophy Major Requirements (36 Credits)

Core Required Courses (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- ☐ **PHIL 110** - Classical Ethics (3 credits)
- ☐ **PHIL 150 or PHIL 151** - Epistemology or Metaphysics (3 credits)
- ☐ **PHIL 175** - Symbolic Logic (3 credits)
- ☐ **PHIL 179** - History of Africana Philosophy (3 credits)

Senior Required Courses (6 Credits / 2 Courses)

- ☐ **PHIL 196** - Senior Colloquium (3 credits)
- ☐ **PHIL 200** – Senior Seminar (3 credits)

History of Philosophy (3+ Credits/ 1+ Course)

- **PHIL 149** – Philosophy of Marthin Luther King Jr
- **PHIL 160** – Pre-Socratic Philosophy
- **PHIL 161** – Intro to Plato
- **PHIL 163** – Medieval Philosophy
- **PHIL 165** – German Idealism
- **PHIL 168** – Seminar on Heidegger
- **PHIL 169** – Seminar on Nietzche
- **PHIL 170** - Ancient Greek Philosophy
- **PHIL 171** - Ancient Egyptian Philosophy
- **PHIL182** - Seminar on Plato
- **PHIL183** - Seminar on Aristotle
- **PHIL 184** - Modern Philosophy: 17th and 18th Centuries
- **PHIL 185** - Rationalism and Empiricism
- **PHIL 186** - Philosophy of Kant
- **PHIL 187** - Philosophy of Hegel
- **PHIL 188** - Philosophy of Kierkegaard
- **PHIL189** - 19th Century Philosophy

- **PHIL190** - Contemporary Philosophy
- **PHIL 197** - Philosophy of William James

Philosophy Major Electives (15+ Credits / 5+ Courses)

Complete any 5 Philosophy Courses Level 100-200. Check with your advisor for additional offerings.

- **PHIL 112** Intro to Social and Political Philosophy
- **PHIL 114** Feminist Philosophy
- **PHIL 120** Intro to Existentialism
- **PHIL 140** Contemporary Moral Issues
- **PHIL 142** Topics in African Philosophy
- **PHIL 143** Topics in African American Philosophy
- **PHIL 147** Ethics and Public Policy
- **PHIL 148** Environmental Ethics
- **PHIL 150** Epistemology
- **PHIL 151** Metaphysics
- **PHIL 153** Philosophy of Culture
- **PHIL 155** Philosophy of Law
- **PHIL 156** Pragmatism
- **PHIL 162** African American Philosophy
- **PHIL 169** Seminar on Nietzsche
- **PHIL 172** African Philosophy
- **PHIL 175** Symbolic Logic
- **PHIL 177** Philosophy of Social Science
- **PHIL 178** Philosophy of Mind
- **PHIL 179** History of Africana Philosophy
- **PHIL 180** Value Theory
- **PHIL 187** Philosophy of Hegel
- **PHIL 190** Contemporary Philosophy
- **PHIL 193** Comparative Philosophy

Philosophy Electives (Not required, but recommended as an entry level course)

- **PHIL 051 –** Principles of Reasoning
- **PHIL 053** – Intro to Philosophy of Science
- **PHIL 055 –** Intro to Philosophy
- **PHIL 057 -** Intro to Ethics
- **PHIL 059** – Knowledge & Value
- **PHIL 082** – Representative Thinkers (Honors Course taken Freshman Year)
    - Non-honors students are encouraged to take the course

Free Electives

- **Credits needed to reach 120 credits**

Sample Degree Progress Checklist

Always consult with your academic advisor for personalized guidance

First Year: Fall Semester (14 Credits / 6 Courses)

- [ ] FRSM 001 - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)
- [ ] ENGW 101/102/104 - First Year Writing I (3 credits)
- [ ] PHIL 110 – Classic Ethics (3 credits)
- [ ] Humanities Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Social Science Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] HHPL Course (2 credits)

First Year: Spring Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] ENGW 103/105 - First Year Writing II (3 credits)
- [ ] African American Cluster Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Social Science Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Foreign Language I (3 credits)
- [ ] Humanities Course - (3 credits)

Second Year: Fall Semester (15-16 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] PHIL 175 - Symbolic Logic (3 credits)
- [ ] PHIL 179 - History of Africana Philosophy (3 credits)
- [ ] Natural Science Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] MATH 005 or higher - (3-4 credits)
- [ ] Foreign Language II (3 credits)

Second Year: Spring Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] PHIL 150 or 151 – Epistemology or Metaphysics (3 credits)
- [ ] History of Philosophy Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Foreign Language III (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Natural Science Course - (3 credits)

Third Year: Fall Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] PHIL Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] PHIL Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] 3rd Writing Course (3 credits)
- [ ] 2 Minor Courses (6 credits)

Third Year: Spring Semester (15 / 5 Courses Credits)

- [ ] PHIL Major Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] PHIL Major Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] 2 Minor Courses (6 credits)
- [ ] COMM 101 – Principles of Speech (3 credits)

Fourth Year: Fall Semester (15+ Credits / 5+ Courses)

- [ ] P196 – Senior Colloquium (3 credits)
- [ ] PHIL Major Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] Experiential Learning - (if not completed)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits) if needed
- [ ] General Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] General Elective (3 credits)

Fourth Year: Spring Semester (12+ Credits / 4+ Courses)

- [ ] PHIL 200 – Senior Seminar (3 credits)
- [ ] General Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] General Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] General Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] Innovative Learning Course (if not completed)
- [ ] Complete Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- [ ] Free Electives (needed credits to reach 120)
- [ ] Apply for graduation

Key Requirements

- **Minimum Major GPA:** 2.0
- **Minimum Minor GPA:** 2.0
- **Credits in Philosophy:** 36 minimum (15 core + 3 methods + 15 electives + 3 internship)
- **Foreign Language:** 9 credits in the same language required
- **Minor Required:** 15-18 credits in a different department,
- **Mathematics:** 3-4 credits of MATH 005 or higher
- **Residency:** Last 30 credits at Howard University
- **General Education:** Must span at least 4 different disciplines

Important Notes

- **Minor Requirement:** Philosophy majors must complete a 15-18 credit minor in a different department. Choose your minor carefully during your first year. Need 2.0 GPA
- **Classical Ethics:** PHIL 110 provides foundational knowledge and should be taken early.
- **Symbolic Logic:** PHIL 175 develops critical reasoning skills essential for philosophy.
- **Africana Philosophy:** PHIL 179 explores philosophy from African and African American perspectives.
- **Senior Thesis:** PHIL 200 is the capstone project demonstrating mastery of philosophical inquiry.
- **Foreign Language:** All 9 credits must be in the same language.

- **Graduate Preparation:** Philosophy prepares students for law school and many graduate programs.
- Consult with your academic advisor each semester for course planning.

Resources

- **Academic Advisor:** Contact Office of Undergraduate Studies for assignment
- **Department Office:** Philosophy Department, College of Arts & Sciences
- **Experiential Learning:** Connect with the Career Center and department for internship opportunities
- **Graduate School Advising:** Meet with faculty advisors if considering graduate programs