

PHILOSOPHY - B.A.

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Philosophy
www.kent.edu/philosophy

Contact Information

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- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Fully Offered

- Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers*

Philosophy and religion teachers, postsecondary

- 6.7% faster than the average
- 30,900 number of jobs
- \$76,160 potential earnings

Education teachers, postsecondary

- 4.8% about as fast as the average
- 77,300 number of jobs
- \$65,440 potential earnings

Lawyers

- 4.0% about as fast as the average
- 813,900 number of jobs
- \$126,930 potential earnings

Social workers, all other

- 5.1% faster than the average
- 62,500 number of jobs
- \$64,210 potential earnings

Public relations and fundraising managers

- 9.2% much faster than the average
- 88,000 number of jobs
- \$118,430 potential earnings

*Note

Source of occupation titles and labor data is from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy gives students the opportunity to consider some of life's biggest questions, such as

- "What is the nature of reality?"
- "What (if anything) can I know with certainty?"
- "What kind of life should I live?"

Philosophy students read, discuss and analyze texts from all of the traditional philosophical areas of study and historical periods. They become familiar with contemporary schools of thought and learn about the application of philosophy to other disciplines and professions. The program familiarizes students not only with the Western philosophical tradition, but also with schools of thought from a broad spectrum of non-Western cultures. The Philosophy major provides intensive training in argumentative writing, careful reading and critical and creative thinking, while also broadening students' intellectual, cultural and personal horizons.

The flexibility of the major's curriculum allows students to combine it with other majors or minors, depending on their career interests. In this way, students can tailor their educational experience to provide excellent preparation for a wide range of careers, including law, business, medicine, technology, public relations, government, journalism, education, writing, editing, communications and social work.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

Freshman Students on the Kent Campus: The freshman admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon the following: cumulative grade point average, ACT and/or SAT scores, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. The Admissions Office at the Kent Campus may defer the admission of students who do not meet admissions criteria but who demonstrate areas of promise for successful college study. Deferred applicants may begin their college coursework at one of seven regional campuses of Kent State University. For more information on admissions, including additional requirements for some academic programs, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

Freshman Students on the Regional Campuses: Kent State campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, have open enrollment admission for students who hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.

English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning a minimum 525 TOEFL score (71 on the Internet-based version), minimum 75 MELAB score, minimum 6.0 IELTS score, minimum 48 PTE score or minimum 100 DET score; or by completing the ESL level 112 Intensive Program. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

Transfer, Transitioning and Former Students: For more information about admission criteria for transfer, transitioning and former students, please visit the admissions website.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Read, write and think critically and analytically.
2. Consider and analyze differing viewpoints and various sides of an issue.
3. Construct strong arguments and express them verbally and in writing.
4. Think creatively and see alternative solutions to problems.
5. Communicate effectively in both personal and professional settings.
6. Demonstrate meaningful global literacy.
7. Continue on a path of lifelong learning and inquiry, whether in graduate school or independently.
8. Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the history of philosophy and of important contemporary questions, as well as a deeper, more specialized understanding of selected philosophical figures, issues and/or areas of inquiry.

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

Destination Kent State: First Year Experience	1
Course is not required for students with 25 transfer credits, excluding College Credit Plus, or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)	2 courses
Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 (or 42)
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. Students in a B.A. and/or B.S. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 42 upper-division credit hours.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120
Some bachelor's degrees require students to complete more than 120 credit hours.	

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCOMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
PHIL 11001	INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (DIVG) (KHUM)	3
PHIL 21001	INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS (DIVG) (KHUM)	3
PHIL 21002	INTRODUCTION TO FORMAL LOGIC (KMCR)	3
or PHIL 41038	INTERMEDIATE LOGIC	
History of Philosophy Electives		
PHIL 31001	ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY (WIC) ¹	3
or PHIL 31002	MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY (WIC)	
PHIL 31003	CONTINENTAL RATIONALISM (WIC) ¹	3
or PHIL 31004	BRITISH EMPIRICISM (WIC)	
or PHIL 31005	GERMAN CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY (WIC)	
PHIL 31006	NINETEENTH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY (WIC) ¹	3
or PHIL 31010	TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY (WIC)	
or PHIL 31020	AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY (WIC)	
Philosophy (PHIL) Upper-Division Electives (30000 or 40000 level)		9
Philosophy (PHIL) Upper-Division Electives (40000 level)		9
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below)		14-16
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Fine Arts		3
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)		6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)		6-7
Kent Core Additional		6
College General Requirement (must be from Kent Core Basic Sciences) ²		3
College General Requirement (must be from Kent Core Social Sciences) ³		3
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 42 upper-division credit hours)		33
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

¹ One course from any of the groups must be earned with a minimum C grade to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

² One additional course taken from the Kent Core Basic Science courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Biology (BSCI), Chemistry (CHEM), Geography (GEOG), Geology (GEOL) or Physics (PHY). The course may not be from the student's major.

³ One additional course taken from the Kent Core Social Sciences courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Geography (GEOG), Criminology and Justice Studies (CRIM), Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS), Political Science (POL), Psychology (PSYC) or Sociology (SOC). The course may not be from the student's major.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

- To fulfill the domestic diversity requirement, students must take one diversity course that is not a PHIL course.

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language.¹

To complete the requirement, students need the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options²:

1. Intermediate I and II of the same language
2. Elementary I and II of a second language
3. Any combination of two courses from the following list:
 - Intermediate I of the same language, or ARAB 21401, ASL 19401, CHIN 25421, MCLS 10001, MCLS 20001, MCLS 20091, MCLS 21417, MCLS 21420, MCLS 22217, MCLS 28403, MCLS 28404

¹ All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and fewer courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University; or (3) demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language. When students complete the requirement with fewer than 14 credit hours and four courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

² Certain majors, concentrations and minors may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular language coursework.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
PHIL 11001	INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (DIVG) (KHUM)	3
UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Elective		3
Credit Hours		13
Semester Two		
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Elective		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Three		
PHIL 21001	INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS (DIVG) (KHUM)	3
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
College General Requirement		3
College General Requirement		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Four		
PHIL 21002	INTRODUCTION TO FORMAL LOGIC (KMCR) or PHIL 41038 or INTERMEDIATE LOGIC	3
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		16
Semester Five		
History of Philosophy Elective		3
Foreign Language		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Elective		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Six		
History of Philosophy Elective		3
Philosophy (PHIL) Upper-Division Electives (30000 or 40000 level)		6
Foreign Language		3
General Elective		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Seven		
History of Philosophy Elective		3
Philosophy (PHIL) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
Philosophy (PHIL) Upper-Division Elective (40000 level)		3
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15
Semester Eight		
Philosophy (PHIL) Upper-Division Electives (40000 level)		6

General Electives	9
Credit Hours	15
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	120