

Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

Action Requested:

Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)

Inactivate Existing

Modify Existing (check **ALL** that apply)

Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)

Concentration (Choose one): *Add* *Delete* *Modify*

Degree Requirements

Admission Standards/ Application Requirements

Other Changes:

Type (Check one):

B.A. B.S. Minor

Master's

Ph.D.

Undergraduate Certificate*

Graduate Certificate*

Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's

Other:

College/School:

CHSS

Department:

Philosophy

Submitted by:

Rachel Jones

Ext:

31290

Email

: rones23@gmu.edu

Effective Term:

Fall

2018

Please note: For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

Justification: (attach separate document if necessary)

Please see memo below

	Existing	New/Modified
Program Title: (Required) <small>Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept</small>	Philosophy, minor	
Concentration(s):		
Admissions Standards / Application Requirements: (Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)		
Degree Requirements: <small>Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications</small>	PHIL173 OR PHIL376 PHIL301 PHIL303 Three PHIL electives, with at least 6 credits at 300 level or above	PHIL301 OR PHIL303 Five PHIL electives, with at least 9 credits at 300 level or above
Courses offered via distance: <small>(if applicable)</small>		
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:		

*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a

 Full-time basis

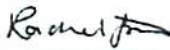
 Part-time basis

Approval Signatures


 30 Nov 2018
 
 1/9/18

Department _____ Date _____ College/School _____ Date _____

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date
Philosophy	Rachel Jones		30 Nov 2018

For Undergraduate Programs only


 Undergraduate Council Member

 Provost Office

 Undergraduate Council Approval Date

For Graduate Programs Only

 Graduate Council Member

 Provost Office

 Graduate Council Approval Date

For Registrar Office's Use Only: Received _____ Banner _____ Catalog _____ revised 9/2/2016

Department of Philosophy

We are proposing the following changes to the Philosophy minor:

1. reducing the existing core requirement to take two History of Philosophy courses (PHIL301 History of Philosophy: Ancient and PHIL303 History of Philosophy: Modern) to one (either PHIL301 Ancient or PHIL301 Modern);
2. removing the core requirement to take a course in Logic (PHIL173 Logic and Critical Thinking or PHIL376 Symbolic Logic);
3. eliminating the specification of three elective emphases (History of Philosophy; Reality, Knowledge and Science; and Social and Political Philosophy) and instead using our advising structure to give students guidance about meaningful course groupings that will complement their major.

Rationale: The main reason for these changes is to make the minor more flexible and accessible to a wider range of students. We want to ensure that all students taking the minor receive *some* training in the history of philosophy, but think that one three credit upper-level course in this area is sufficient. The requirement in Logic is not necessary for all students taking a philosophy minor, and may be off-putting to some students who are more oriented towards the intersections of philosophy with (for example) art or literature.

In the department's view, the value of taking 18 credits in Philosophy, in terms of expanding students' analytical and critical thinking skills, ability to consider differing perspectives on complex issues, and capacities for ethical responsiveness, outweighs the issue of whether logic is amongst the specific courses taken by every student.

A secondary concern is that because at present, we only offer PHIL301 and PHIL303 once each academic year (PHIL301 normally runs in the Fall and PHIL303 in the Spring), some students aiming to complete the Philosophy minor find themselves unable to complete both courses in time to graduate.

Going forward, we plan to use our advising structure to work with students on the minor so as to help them tailor a suite of courses that complements their major and/or their other interests and career plans. Thus, if a logic course is a good fit for a particular student, e.g. a Physics or Math major, we will continue to recommend it (the requirement for PHIL173 will also remain part of the Philosophy and Law minor, given its status as a recommended course for pre-law students); for other students, more than one course in the History of Philosophy may be a good fit.

The existing elective emphases within the minor are illustrative rather than exhaustive; including them in the catalog description is unnecessary and potentially misleading. Instead, this information can be provided informally to students as suggestions for how to group courses into coherent pathways that complement their majors (for example, via in-person advising and the advising page on the department website). This approach will also allow us to update the advice we give in ways that are more responsive to changes in philosophy faculty and course offerings.

We are maintaining the existing requirement that at least 12 of the 18 credits for the minor must be at the 300 level or above.

In sum: we believe these changes will better equip students to decide which courses to take and how to group them, in ways that support their individual growth, enrich their overall plan of study, and fit with their graduation and career plans.

The proposed changes were approved at a Department Meeting on Friday 27th October 2017.

Chris DiTeresi, Undergraduate Director / Rachel Jones, Department Chair, 22 Nov 2017

New descriptor of PHIL minor for University Catalog - 'Overview' section

The philosophy minor allows students majoring in other disciplines to expand their analytical and critical thinking skills while engaging with pressing ethical, social, and political issues. Students will gain a grounding in the history of philosophy and with the help of an advisor, will select a range of electives that complement their major, future career plans and/or personal interests. Courses available span ancient, modern and contemporary philosophy, and focus on questions of knowledge, reality and existence; ethics, including bioethics, environmental ethics and existentialist ethics; social and political philosophy; and philosophy of art, literature and science, among other areas.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR

Banner Code: PHIL

Academic Advising

B465 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: <http://philosophy.gmu.edu/programs/la-minor-phil-phil>

Students can take a general minor or one organized around specific emphases, each of which stresses a different aspect of philosophy. The emphasis in the history of philosophy is particularly useful to students in the humanities, especially those who wish to pursue graduate study. The emphasis in reality, knowledge, and science is especially beneficial for students majoring in the human and natural sciences. The emphasis in social and political philosophy is recommended for students who plan to study in the social sciences.

add new descriptor here

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Eight credits of coursework must be unique to the minor and students must earn a minimum grade of 2.00 in all courses applied to the minor. No course may be used to fulfill more than one requirement.

For policies governing all minors, see AP.5.3.4 Minors.

Requirements

Minor Requirements

Total credits: 18

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Core Courses

Logic

PHIL-173	Logic and Critical Thinking	3
or PHIL-376	Symbolic Logic	
Total Credits		3

History of Philosophy

PHIL 301	History of Western Philosophy: Ancient	3
PHIL 303	History of Western Philosophy: Modern	3
Total Credits		6

Electives

Select three electives in philosophy. At least 6 of the elective credits must be at the 300 level or above.

Total Credits		9
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Students may choose to focus their three electives in one of the optional emphases below:

Emphasis in History of Philosophy

Select one course in the history of philosophy from the following:

- PHIL-325 Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought
- PHIL-332 Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy
- PHIL-335 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
- PHIL-336 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Existentialism
- PHIL-337 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Phenomenology

Select two elective courses (6 credits) in philosophy

Emphasis in Reality, Knowledge, and Science

Select two courses from the following:

- PHIL-337 Twentieth-Century Continental Thought: Phenomenology
- PHIL-340 Hermeneutic Philosophy
- PHIL-357 Philosophy of the Social Sciences
- PHIL-377 Philosophy of Natural Sciences
- PHIL-379 Theory of Knowledge
- PHIL-374 Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL-377 Darwin: Biology and Beyond (Mason Gore)
- PHIL-378 Reason, Science and Faith in the Modern Age (Mason Gore)

Select one elective course (3 credits) in philosophy

Emphasis in Social and Political Philosophy

Select three courses from the following:

- PHIL-311 Philosophy of Law
- PHIL-323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL-324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL-325 Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought
- PHIL-327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL-338 Philosophy, Sex, and Gender

Select one course in the history of Philosophy from the following:

3

five

15

9

15