

BA in Philosophy

33 units

Mission

The Department of Philosophy (<https://www.apu.edu/theology/philosophy/>) equips and mentors students to become intellectual leaders in important debates about compelling philosophical issues that shape contemporary culture.

Goals

The philosophy major (<https://www.apu.edu/theology/programs/philosophy-major/>) achieves this mission by developing a community of scholars who are:

- **Intellectually Skilled:** Excellent in critical reading, analytic reasoning, and persuasive argumentative writing.
- **Historically Informed:** Cognizant of the classical philosophical theories and principles that have shaped contemporary debates about God, human nature, and the Good Life.
- **Pragmatically Oriented:** Able to use this combination of intellectual skills and theoretical knowledge to influence contemporary cultural practices concerning religion, science, ethics, civil service, public policy, and the arts.

Distinctive Features

APU's philosophy major embodies four distinctive characteristics of the university's Wesleyan Christian heritage:

- **Classical Christian Orientation:** We draw upon the greatest aspects of the classical Christian philosophical traditions—Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant.
- **Sanctity of Mind:** We believe that all people are called to love God with their minds by cultivating intellectual virtues so they can better understand God, human nature, and all of God's Creation.
- **Sanctity of Heart:** We believe that all people are called to love God with their hearts by cultivating moral virtues so they can be better lovers of God and of their neighbors and better stewards of God's Creation.
- **Community-Oriented Service:** We believe that all people are called to manifest their love of God and neighbor by putting these intellectual and moral virtues into practice, serving their ecclesial and civil communities.

Career Opportunities

The major in philosophy prepares students for excellence in a variety of careers, such as:

- Professor
- Lawyer
- Bioethicist
- Public Policy Analyst
- Corporate Compliance Manager
- Pastor/Theologian
- K-12 Teacher

Requirements

The philosophy major is completed by taking PHIL 100 or HUM 224 and at least 30 units of upper-division work in philosophy from the list below. Each course is 3 units. Courses below cannot be counted for any other major in the Department of Biblical Studies, Theology, and Ministry. A minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA is required in all major courses.

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
PHIL 100	Introduction to Philosophy ^{1, 2}	3
PHIL 310	Formal Logic	3
PHIL 315	History of Ancient Philosophy ²	3
PHIL 320	History of Early Modern Philosophy ²	3
PHIL 330	Ethics	3
PHIL 340	Concepts of Human Nature	3

Select one of the following:	3
PHIL 440 Epistemology	
PHIL 445 Metaphysics	
Electives	
Select 12 units consisting of any upper-division PHIL courses not being used to satisfy the Required Courses above. At least 6 of these units must be at the 400 level. ³	12
Total Units	33

¹ Meets the APU Core: Humanities: Philosophy general education requirement.

² HUM 224 may be taken in exchange for PHIL 100. HUM 324 may be taken in exchange for PHIL 315 or PHIL 320.

³ PHIL 301 and PHIL 303 do not count for this elective requirement.

Program Learning Outcomes

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Students who successfully complete this program shall be able to:

1. Formulate philosophical questions with precision and clarity.
2. Articulate the structure of a philosopher's position or philosophical text and assess its strengths and weaknesses.
3. Identify and critique key figures and themes in the history of philosophy and the perspectives of those marginalized by this history.
4. Critically analyze societal problems and proposed resolutions from a Christian perspective.
5. Demonstrate continual intellectual growth through personal research and scholarship.
6. Manifest skills enabling them to be strong candidates for a graduate program in philosophy.