

## Philosophy: A Quick Guide for Majors (2020–21)

---

- **Welcome to the Philosophy department!** This quick guide helps you get started and stay on track. Here are a few steps all majors should follow.
- **Step 1: Declare the major with your academic advisor.** See Ericka Christensen ([echristensen2@gsu.edu](mailto:echristensen2@gsu.edu)) to make it official.
- **Step 2: Get connected!** Join the [Listserv](#) for news and updates. Join our [The Philosophers' Guild](#), our student club.
- **Step 3: Build a strong foundation in the major.**
  - Take these courses first:
    - Phil 2010 or Phil 2030
    - Phil 3000 (CTW requirement)
    - Phil 3010 or 3020 (goes towards History requirement)
- **Step 4: Reflect on your track-record so far. Have you completed Step 3? What have been your strengths and weaknesses? What parts of philosophy seem most exciting to you?** Discuss with your advisor, trusted professors, or the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

- **Step 5: Design your philosophy education. Here are the requirements:**
  - Phil 1010 (2 credits) or Phil 2500 (3 credits).
    - 2500 is not required for the degree, but it serves as good LSAT prep, and it is required for grad with “distinction.”
  - One course from Value Theory area.
    - What is value theory? In this area of philosophy, we investigate values such as goodness, moral virtue, justice, equality, beauty, and meaning, and questions about society, politics, and the law.
  - One course from Epistemology and Metaphysics area.
    - What are metaphysics and epistemology (M&E)? In these areas of philosophy, we investigate the basic structure of reality and the human mind, and fundamental questions about the nature and limits of knowledge.
  - Two courses from History of Philosophy area. The requirement is *either* Phil 3010 or Phil 3020 *plus* one additional history of philosophy course.
    - What is the history of philosophy? In this area of philosophy, we investigate the important philosophers, movements, and theories of the past. History of philosophy helps us understand the present and question its assumptions.
  - Four more courses at the 3000-level or 4000-level.
- **The Pre-Law Concentration:**
  - Step 5 for Philosophy pre-Law majors is slightly different. It is the same as above except: instead of four 3-4000 courses, take two 3-4000 courses *plus* Phil 4820 *plus* one law-related elective outside philosophy (from approved list).

## Tips and Suggestions

---

- Take your foundation courses at the beginning (See Step 3 above).
- Get help designing your education. Talk with your academic advisor. Meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Eric E. Wilson ([ewilson30@gsu.edu](mailto:ewilson30@gsu.edu)). Chat with your professors about upcoming courses.
- Stay on top of all GSU [graduation requirements](#).
- 4000-level courses are more challenging. Take the foundation courses early (Step 3 above). Consider 1-2 additional 3000-level courses before moving to the next level.
- Use our projected [schedule](#) to plan your semesters ahead of time. Review the [philosophy requirements](#) and opportunities before registering each semester.
- Consider Signature Experience opportunities in philosophy – such as an [Honors Thesis](#), an [Internship](#), or [Study Abroad](#).
- Prepare early for life after GSU. Visit [Career Services](#) for career counseling. Find jobs by joining [Handshake](#). Get help with your [resume](#). Become familiar with the [skills and “career competencies” valued by employers](#) – many of the very same skills you’re learning in philosophy.

## Questions?

---

- For questions about the major, contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Eric Wilson ([ewilson30@gsu.edu](mailto:ewilson30@gsu.edu)).
- For questions about the pre-law concentration, contact the Pre-Law Advisor, Dr. Suzie Love ([slove13@gsu.edu](mailto:slove13@gsu.edu)).
- For registration and other questions, contact your academic advisor.