



University of Illinois Springfield PHILOSOPHY

Program Description



The Philosophy Program at UIS focuses in the areas of core analytic philosophy (philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, and related areas) and values (ethics, aesthetics and political philosophy) while providing a sound background in the history of philosophy. The study of philosophy increases an awareness of personal values and the major value conflicts in contemporary society, helps develop an understanding of the nature and limits of various forms of knowledge, and offers experience in critical reflections on major problems of knowledge or value.

An undergraduate student may complete a major or minor in philosophy to acquire training in critical thinking and skill in analyzing values; both the major and minor concentration are offered on the UIS campus and online.

Admission Requirements

Prospective online students must apply for admission. Priority will be given to applicants with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, but applicants with lower GPAs will also be considered. We look at a variety of factors before making an admissions decision. In addition, applicants to the online program are required to supply the following materials:

- A sample of the applicant's writing, preferably on a philosophical topic. A paper from a previous philosophy course would make an excellent writing sample.
- A statement of purpose, approximately 300-500 words in length. This statement should explain the applicant's reasons for selecting the online philosophy major at UIS.

In addition, the applicant may provide

- Up to three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the student's potential for academic success.
- Any additional materials that the applicant feels will strengthen his or her case.

Please do not be afraid to apply if your academic record is less than perfect. We look at many factors in making our decision. Having said that, if there is a major blemish in your record, you are much better off explaining it than hoping the admissions committee does not notice it. Your statement of purpose is a good place for you to put your record into context.

Applications may be submitted at any time, but applicants should be aware that they take time to process. Please submit your application at least a few weeks before the start of the semester in which you wish to commence your studies.

Degree Requirements

These credit hour totals assume that the student has already completed the lower-level coursework required for transfer students.

Philosophy (Online) -- Coursework (40 hours)

- Critical Thinking/Logic (4 hours)
- Analytical Philosophy (8 hours)
- History of Philosophy - PHI 421 & PHI 425 (8 hours)
- Values Philosophy (8 hours)*
- Advanced Specialization Philosophy (4 hours)
- Philosophy Elective (4 hours)
- PHI 495: Senior Seminar (4 hours)

* At least 2 hours must be Ethics-based.

Specific Course Information

PHI 495 Senior Seminar

Course is ONLY offered Fall semester.

Philosophy students are required to take at least two classes (no less than 6 hours) as prerequisites for the major: Critical Thinking (PHI 301) or logic prerequisite, and a general prerequisite (any other class in philosophy). In some cases, students may be conditionally accepted into the major and fulfill the prerequisites within their first year in the program. For Capital Scholars students, the humanities section counts as the general prerequisite. Prerequisites do not count toward the 36 hours required.

Students must take a minimum of two classes in each of the following three areas: core analytical philosophy, history of philosophy, and values.

Area 1: Core Analytical Philosophy

In order to gain analytical skills, students must take at least two classes (8 hours) in the area of core philosophy, such as philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, analytical metaphysics, and logic.

Area 2: History of Philosophy

In order to gain a comprehensive outlook on the history of philosophy, students have to take one class in ancient and medieval philosophy and one course in the history of modern philosophy or program-approved comprehensive equivalents.

Area 3: Values

In order to gain familiarity with value theory, students are required to take at least two classes (8 hours) in the areas of ethics, aesthetics, or political philosophy.

Official degree requirements are available in the UIS catalog at www.uis.edu/uiscatalog

Program Contacts

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Program URL: <http://www.uis.edu/philosophy>