

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Philosophy and Religious Studies

Each program in the department has numerous desired outcomes. Students will be able to do the following:

Selected Educational Outcomes (Philosophy Track)

1. Explain and analyze central issues, topics, and philosophers in the history of philosophy, from the ancient to the modern periods.
2. Write and speak critically and logically, applying various theories to specific cases and examples.
3. Explain their own value system, evaluating their values in the context of a diverse range of ideas that inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. Create independent philosophical research, synthesizing a variety of sources, including traditional primary philosophical texts and secondary source commentaries.
5. Demonstrate a working familiarity with current research methods, citation styles, and presentation techniques.

Selected Educational Outcomes (Religious Studies Track)

1. Explain and interpret the world's religious traditions and their influence on values, norms, and public policies.
2. Apply critical and analytical skills in analyzing multiple religious perspectives.
3. Identify and evaluate their self-understanding in the context of diverse ideas that inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. Create independent research, synthesizing sources including sacred texts, religious autobiographies, and other secondary sources.
5. Demonstrate a working familiarity with current research methods, citation styles, and presentation techniques.

Examples of Outcome Assessments (Philosophy Track and Religious Studies Track)

The department assesses the extent to which the program requirements create the desired outcomes by using a variety of techniques. Examples of these assessments (and related educational outcomes) include the following:

1. The on-going evaluation of student examinations and research papers using rubrics, comparing quantitative data over time.
2. Exit surveys to be administered to each student completing work for the major.
3. Exit examinations administered during the senior Metaphilosophy/Religious Studies Capstone combined course.
4. Surveys of alumni to assess the relevancy of the program to their current work and their suggestions for refinements.
5. The use of university or external data that may become available to assess the quality of the program and the performance of graduates.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies

Core Curriculum	60
Core Curriculum Areas A-E (See VSU Core Curriculum)	42
Core Curriculum Areas F	
PHIL 2030 or REL 2010	Ethics and Contemporary Society Introduction to Religion and Culture
PHIL 2010 & REL 2020	Fundamentals of Philosophy and World Religions
Foreign Language and Culture sequence	
Senior College Curriculum ¹	60
Select from the following Tracks:	60
Philosophy	
Religious Studies	
Total hours required for the degree	120

¹ Must include at least 39 hours of coursework numbered 3000 or above.

Philosophy Track

Logic and Argumentation		3
PHIL 2020	Principles of Logic and Argumentation	
History of Philosophy		6

PHIL 3060	History of Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 3070	History of Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 3080	History of Early Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 3090	History of Late Modern Philosophy	
Ethics		3
PHIL 3100	Ethics and Health Care	
PHIL 3120	Ethical Theory	
PHIL 3130	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 3140	Ethics and Law	
PHIL 3150	Ethics and Business	
PHIL 3160	Ethics and Media	
PHIL 3170	Ethics and Sport	
PHIL 3180	Ethics and the Environment	
PHIL 3190	Ethics and the Social Sciences	
PHIL 3210	Ethics and Technology	
PHIL 4120	Ethics and Public Policy	
PHIL 4220	Ethics and Public Administration	
Philosophy, Society, and Culture		3
PHIL 3110	Aesthetics	
PHIL 3300	Philosophy of Religion	
PHIL 3400	Existentialism	
PHIL 3430	American Philosophy	
PHIL 3530	Christian Ethics	
PHIL 3540	Ecology and World Religions	
PHIL 3610	Native American Thought and Cultures	
PHIL 3620	Post-Colonization Issues in Indigenous Cultures	
PHIL 3630	Native American Women	
PHIL 3650	Mysticism and Social Justice	
PHIL 3700	Buddhism	
PHIL 3710	Hinduism	
PHIL 3800	Philosophy, Religion and Film	
PHIL 3801	Philosophical Themes in Film	
PHIL 3850	Philosophy of Race	
PHIL 3900	Philosophy of Happiness	
Epistemology, Metaphysics, & Scientific Reasoning		3
PHIL 3200	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 3220	Cosmology	
PHIL 3230	Philosophy of Mind	
Senior-Level Curriculum		3
PHIL 4800	Special Topics in Philosophy	
PHIL 4810	Directed Study in Philosophy	
PHIL 4900	Special Topics in Ethics	
PHIL 4910	Directed Study in Ethics	
Senior Capstone		3
PHIL 4920	Metaphilosophy	
Upper Division REL courses		6
Minor and/or Elective Courses		30

Religious Studies Track

Religious Traditions		6
REL 3510	Judaism	
REL 3520	Islam	

REL 3610	Native American Thought	
REL 3700	Buddhism	
REL 3710	Hinduism	
History of Religions and Sacred Texts		6
REL 3220	Inter-Religious Dialogue and Understanding	
REL 3300	Philosophy of Religion	
REL 3330	New Testament	
REL 3340	Old Testament/Hebrew Bible	
REL 3350	Religious Autobiography and Spiritual Transformation	
REL 3360	Reading Sacred Texts: Hebrew Bible	
REL 3500	Women and Gender in Early Christianity	
REL 3504	The Archaeology of Ancient Israel	
REL 3505	Varieties of Early Christianity	
REL 3600	Women and Religion	
REL 3630	Native American Women	
REL 3640	Alternative Religions of the World	
Religion, Ethics, and Society		3
REL 3210	Religion, Violence, and Nonviolence	
REL 3270	The Human Quest for Faith and Values	
REL 3400	Existentialism	
REL 3540	Ecology and World Religions	
REL 3620	Post Colonization Issues in Indigenous Cultures	
REL 3650	Mysticism and Social Justice	
REL 3800	Philosophy, Religion and Film	
Senior Capstone		3
REL 4920	Senior Capstone Course	
Upper Division REL electives 3000-, 4000-level		6
Upper Division PHIL Courses 3000-, 4000-level		6
Minor and/or Elective Courses		30