

PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

The mission of Saint Louis University's Department of Philosophy (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/philosophy/>) is to provide a philosophical education appropriate to Catholic and Jesuit education goals (<https://www.slu.edu/about/catholic-jesuit-identity/>). This goal is rooted in the fundamental Catholic belief that all human experience reveals and speaks to the existence and nature of God and the dignity and value of all human beings in themselves and as members of the human community.

The department strives to provide an excellent introduction to the discipline and practice of philosophy. The SLU faculty seeks to build up in students the ability to understand, explain and evaluate lines of reasoning; to foster a reflective moral life; and to educate them on the history of philosophy, contemporary philosophical debate and the Catholic heritage. The faculty nurtures in each student a philosophical habit of mind, an appreciation for the Western philosophical tradition, a spirit of intellectual inquiry and a lifelong desire for wisdom.

Curriculum Overview

The Department of Philosophy in SLU's College of Arts and Sciences (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/>) offers a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy that provides students with a solid foundation in critical philosophical thinking while leaving significant room to focus on their interests in philosophy.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

The department offers a wide range of opportunities for philosophical exchange and dialogue, both within the University's intellectual community and with the broader philosophical community. These opportunities include visiting scholars, departmental colloquia, the annual Wade Memorial Lecture, various conferences, reading groups and graduate student talks.

- Students can get to know other philosophy majors through the Philosophy Club.
- The Vatican Microfilm Library, located on campus, is the finest resource in the United States for medieval and Renaissance studies research.
- The Department of Philosophy has an internationally regarded journal.

Careers

The benefits of SLU's philosophy program include several career opportunities. Students who pursue a degree in philosophy at SLU will find themselves well-prepared for many career options. Philosophy provides, for example, excellent training for those interested in pursuing professional degrees in law, business or medicine.

Not only do philosophy majors at SLU excel on entrance exams for professional programs, but the analytical and communication skills they develop in their philosophical studies are essential for their future success in these programs. The study of philosophy is excellent preparation for any career that focuses on clarity, concision and analytic reasoning.

Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (<https://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application and the Coalition Application.

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED or HiSET.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/cost-of-attendance.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/tuition-summer-current.pdf>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to synthesize knowledge of two different periods of Western philosophy.
2. Graduates will be able to correctly employ principles of logical reasoning in philosophical analysis.
3. Graduates will be able to analyze and defend a philosophical position on a philosophical problem.
4. Graduates will be able to gather sources relevant to a philosophical problem.
5. Graduates will be able to interpret sources relevant to a philosophical problem.
6. Graduates will be able to synthesize sources relevant to a philosophical problem.

Requirements

Philosophy students must complete a minimum total of **30 credits** for the major.

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		
Major Requirements		
PHIL 1050 or CORE 1700	Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
PHIL 2050	Ethics	3
PHIL 4040	Symbolic Logic	3
PHIL 4880	Senior Inquiry: Project	3
<i>History of Philosophy Requirement</i>		
Choose two courses with the History of Philosophy attributes, such as:		6
PHIL 4400	History of Ancient Greek Philosophy	
PHIL 4500	Medieval Philosophy	

PHIL 4600	History of Modern Philosophy	
<i>Philosophy Electives</i>		
Two courses must be at the 4000 level (p. 2)		12
General Electives		55-58
Total Credits		120

Continuation Standards

Students must have a GPA of 2.00 in philosophy major coursework to be retained in the major.

Philosophy Electives

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 3250	Philosophy of Religion	
PHIL 3300	Philosophy of the Human Person	
PHIL 3360	Medical Ethics	
PHIL 3380	Business Ethics	
PHIL 3400	Ethics & Engineering	
PHIL 3420	Environmental and Ecological Ethics	
PHIL 3430	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 3450	Disaster Narratives	
PHIL 3480	Jewish Life: Bible to Middle Ages	
PHIL 3490	Jewish Life: Middle Ages to Modern Times	
PHIL 3510	Philosophy in Film	
PHIL 3600	Science and Religion	
PHIL 3910	Internship	
PHIL 3930	Special Topics	
PHIL 3980	Independent Study	
PHIL 4040	Symbolic Logic	
PHIL 4090	Topics in Advanced Logic	
PHIL 4120	Topics in Epistemology	
PHIL 4150	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 4160	Philosophy and Physics	
PHIL 4190	Gender and Science	
PHIL 4210	Topics in Metaphysics	
PHIL 4260	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 4280	Biology and Mind	
PHIL 4310	Topics in Ethics	
PHIL 4320	Feminism and the History of Ethics	
PHIL 4350	Survey of Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 4400	History of Ancient Greek Philosophy	
PHIL 4500	Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 4570	Latin Paleography	
PHIL 4600	History of Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 4720	Topics Continental Philosophy	
PHIL 4740	Philosophy of Karl Marx	
PHIL 4750	Latin American Philosophy	
PHIL 4760	Spanish Philosophy	
PHIL 4800	Topics and Movements in Contemporary Philosophy	
PHIL 4810	Philosophy of Feminism	
PHIL 4820	Philosophy and Race	
PHIL 4840	Catholic Social Thought	
PHIL 4850	Topics in Philosophical Anthropology	

PHIL 4910	Internship
PHIL 4930	Special Topics
PHIL 4980	Advanced Independent Study

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student’s academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an “!” are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	2-3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication	3
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication	3
General Electives		3
Credits		15-16
Spring		
PHIL 2050	Ethics (meets Core “Dignity, Ethics, & Just Society” attribute requirement)	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
CORE 3200	Ways of Thinking: Quantitative Reasoning	3
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
General Electives		4
Credits		15-16
Year Two		
Fall		
PHIL 4080	Symbolic Logic	3
CORE 3800	Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences	3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
General Electives		6
Credits		15
Spring		
PHIL 4400	History of Ancient Greek Philosophy	3
CORE 3600	Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences	3

General Electives		9
Credits		15
Year Three		
Fall		
PHIL 4500	Medieval Philosophy	3
PHIL 3350	Philosophy and Good Life	3
CORE 4000	Collaborative Inquiry	2-3
General Electives		7
Credits		15-16
Spring		
PHIL 3250	Philosophy of Religion	3
PHIL 4160	Philosophy and Physics	3
General Electives		9
Credits		15
Year Four		
Fall		
PHIL 4210	Topics in Metaphysics	3
CORE 3500	Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World	1
General Electives		11
Credits		15
Spring		
PHIL 4880	Senior Inquiry: Project	3
General Electives		12
Credits		15
Total Credits		120-123

Madrid

Why major in philosophy? There are at least two reasons. Philosophy dives beneath life’s surface, so if you want to think deeply, philosophy is for you. Philosophy is doubly for you if you want to develop skills that will help you in the job market: clear writing, insightful research, careful analysis and critical thinking.

Curriculum Overview

The philosophy major requires 120 credits of coursework, including 30 credits of philosophy coursework. The standard or general philosophy major provides students with a solid foundation in critical philosophical thinking, while leaving significant room to focus on their personal interests in philosophy.

To earn a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy, you will study at both of Saint Louis University’s campuses: Madrid and St. Louis. One semester of study in St. Louis is required.

For more than two centuries, Saint Louis University has promoted philosophical thinking in the Jesuit-Catholic tradition. SLU-Madrid offers a full range of courses in philosophy, including courses on Spanish philosophy, computer ethics, social and political philosophy, business ethics, the meaning of life, and Latin American philosophy.

Courses that fulfill the university’s liberal arts core requirements count toward both the philosophy major and minor and enhance the study-abroad experience for visiting students.

Faculty

The faculty at Saint Louis University-Madrid are experts in their respective fields. They are internationally recognized teachers, researchers and mentors. Learn about our faculty members (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/faculty-profiles.php>), including their education, credentials, experience and contact information.

Faculty Research

The SLU-Madrid faculty maintains robust programs of research in a variety of fields. See below for more data.

Find Faculty Research Information (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/faculty-research.php>)

Find Research Resources (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/research-resources.php>)

Fieldwork, Internships and Careers

The study of philosophy will prepare you for any field where clear, concise communication and analytic reasoning is needed. Studies in philosophy help students prepare for entrance exams for professional programs and provide a firm foundation for future studies in law, business or medicine.

Admission

SLU-Madrid Application (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/apply.php>)

Application Deadlines

- April 1 - Fall admission (July 1 for EU students)
- Aug. 1 - Spring admission (Nov. 1 for EU students)
- March 1 - Summer sessions (for applicants who require a student visa)
- April 15 - Summer sessions (for applicants who do not require a student visa)

Contact Us

Office of Admissions
Avenida del Valle, 34
28003 Madrid, Spain
P. (+34) 91 554 58 58
admissions-madrid@slu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays through Fridays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (3 p.m. on Fridays from May 15 - Sept. 1)

Tuition and Fees

SLU-Madrid is committed to providing a quality Jesuit education at an affordable price. Tuition rates at SLU-Madrid are approximately 40% lower than at comparable private universities in the U.S.

If you have questions or would like to speak with a financial aid officer, email us at financialaid-madrid@slu.edu.

- Tuition and Fees (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/admissions/tuition-fees.php>)
- Scholarships and Financial Aid (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid.php>)

2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

- Philosophy, B.A. (STLCC 2+SLU) (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2plusslu/stlcc/philosophy/>)

Contact Us

For additional information about this program, please contact sluphilosophy@slu.edu or call 314-977-3149.