

# PHILOSOPHY FOR MINISTRY, B.A.

Saint Louis University's Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy for Ministry, offered through the College of Philosophy and Letters, integrates philosophical study with a complementary concentration in the humanities or a second language, and is designed for students in religious formation.

Saint Louis University also offers an Archdiocesan philosophy for ministry, B.A. ([https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/philosophy-letters/philosophy-ba\\_arch/](https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/philosophy-letters/philosophy-ba_arch/)) (specifically for students on track to ordination to diocesan priesthood) and a Bachelor of Science in Philosophy for Ministry (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/philosophy-letters/philosophy-bs/>) through the College for Philosophy and Letters, as well as a traditional Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba/>) through the College of Arts and Sciences.

## Curriculum Overview

The concentration options in SLU's Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy for Ministry program leave considerable room for electives. Core, major and concentration requirements may simultaneously satisfy requirements for a second major, minor or certificate in other schools and colleges, provided the content is appropriate.

## Careers

Saint Louis University's Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy for Ministry provides both the philosophical and intellectual background needed for further studies in theology and ministry. Options for students who envision a future in areas of ministry and service to the church include:

- For future priests, the philosophical requirements for ordination
- For servants of the church, tools for reflecting on contexts of ministry
- For dedicated Catholics, opportunities to integrate your wider studies and interests with your faith

## Admission

Admission requirements for each candidate's religious order or diocese in the areas of academic achievement, personal character and spiritual ideals must be met. Lay students must articulate a serious desire for Catholic ministry.

## 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	Per Semester	Per Credit
Undergraduate Tuition	\$22,130	\$1,530
Newman Center		\$225

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 identify connections among major thinkers and ideas that have shaped the history of Western philosophy.
2. Graduates will be able to state and explain key philosophical ideas and methods suitable for understanding and analyzing contexts of Catholic ministry.
3. Graduates will be able to analyze specific challenges in the contexts of Catholic ministry using philosophy and other relevant knowledge.
4. Graduates will be able to demonstrate knowledge of relevant humanistic, social-scientific, and STEM resources for understanding today's world, as a context of Catholic ministry.

## Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Undergraduate University Core</b> ( <a href="https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/">https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/</a> )		<b>32-35</b>
<b>Major Requirements</b>		<b>74-83</b>
<i>Latin, Greek, or Modern Language</i> <sup>1</sup>		9
Complete through the intermediate (2000 level or above) from the following course codes: LATN, GK, AR, CHIN, FREN, GR, ITAL, PG, RUSS, and SPAN.		
<i>Theology</i>		6
Any 6 credits of THEO credit, level 2000 or above.		
<i>Epistemology</i>		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 3600	Science and Religion	
PHIL 4120	Topics in Epistemology	
PHLT 3000	Logic and Epistemology	
<i>Philosophy of Religion</i>		3
PHIL 3250	Philosophy of Religion	
<i>Philosophy of Human Nature</i>		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 3300	Philosophy of the Human Person	
PHLT 3300	Philosophical Anthropology	
<i>Ethics</i>		3
PHIL 2050	Ethics	
<i>Ancient Greek Philosophy</i> <sup>†</sup>		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 4400	History of Ancient Greek Philosophy	
PHLT 3100	Ancient Philosophy	
<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> <sup>†</sup>		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 4500	Medieval Philosophy	

PHLT 3200	Medieval Philosophy	
<i>Modern Philosophy</i> <sup>†</sup>		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 4600	History of Modern Philosophy	
PHLT 4100	Modern Philosophy	
<i>Contemporary Philosophy</i> <sup>†</sup>		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 4800	Topics and Movements in Contemporary Philosophy	
PHLT 4800	Contemporary Philosophy	
<i>Social Analysis/Special Ethics</i> <sup>‡</sup>		9
<i>Capstone Preparation</i>		2
PHLT 4900	Integration Seminar	
<i>Capstone Project</i>		3
PHLT 4960	Capstone Project	
<i>Concentrations</i>		
Select one of the following concentrations:		30
Humanities and Social Sciences Concentration (p. 2)		
Language Concentration (p. 2)		
<b>University Electives</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120</b>

† The historical period courses are normally satisfied by history of philosophy courses, but courses on appropriate historical figures and topics may also count, with approval of the Dean. Contemporary Philosophy includes late 19th century to present.

‡ The Social Analysis/Special Ethics requirements may be satisfied by courses in other disciplines, provided their content is appropriate; these courses may also simultaneously satisfy other core requirements or concentration requirements.

<sup>1</sup> May be satisfied by a passing grade on an approved language proficiency examination.

## Humanities and Social Sciences Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
English, American, or World Literature		9
ENGL courses 3000 level or above		
Fine Arts or Art History		6
Any ART, ARTH, DANC, or VPA courses		
History		9
HIST courses, one can be at the 1000 level, others should be at 2000 level or above		
Natural Science		6
BIOL, CHEM, EAS, PHYS courses		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

## Language Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
English, American, or World Literature		6
ENGL courses 3000 level or above		
Fine Arts or Art History		3
Any ART, ARTH, DANC, or VPA courses		

History	6
HIST courses, one can be at the 1000 level, others should be at the 2000 level or above	
Natural Science	6
BIOL, CHEM, EAS, PHYS courses	
A second foreign language through the intermediate level *	9
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>30</b>

\* See B.A. major language requirements for language proficiency.

## Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a minimum 2.00 GPA.

## 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.

## Humanities Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research	3
Language		3
Art/Art History		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
PHIL 2050	Ethics	3
PHIL 3250	Philosophy of Religion	3
Ancient Philosophy (if needed) Normally satisfied by PHIL 4400, but other courses with appropriate content may also qualify		3
PHLT 4900	Integration Seminar	1
Theology		3
Language		3
Math/Logic (if Ancient is not taken)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Medieval Philosophy (normally satisfied by PHIL 4500, but other courses in medieval thinkers/topics may also qualify)		3
Natural Science		3

Theology	3	
Language	3	
Social Sciences (May count as a Social Analysis course)	3	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

<b>Spring</b>		
Modern Philosophy (Normally satisfied by PHIL 4600, but other courses on modern thinkers/topics may also qualify)		
Philosophy of Human Nature (if needed) Normally satisfied by PHIL 3300, but other courses with appropriate content may also qualify	3	
Art/Art History	3	
History	3	
Literature	3	
Elective	1-2	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16-17</b>

<b>Year Three</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Epistemology (Satisfied by multiple offerings, including PHIL 3600 and philosophy of science courses)		
Contemporary Philosophy	3	
Social Analysis: Social Sciences	3	
Natural Science	3	
History	3	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

<b>Spring</b>		
Social Analysis/Special Ethics		
Social Sciences (May count as Social Analysis course)	3	
History	3	
Math/Logic (if not taken in semester 2)	3	
Literature	3	
Elective	3	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

<b>Year Four</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Social Analysis (if needed)		
Social Sciences	3	
Capstone Preparation	2	
Literature	3	
Elective	3	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>

<b>Spring</b>		
PHLT 4960	Capstone Project	3
Social Analysis/Special Ethics (if needed)		
Art/Art History		3
Literature		3
Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>127-128</b>
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## Language Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research	3
Language I		3
Art/Art History		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
PHIL 2050	Ethics	3
PHIL 3250	Philosophy of Religion	3
Ancient Philosophy (if needed)	Normally satisfied by PHIL 4400, but other courses with appropriate content may also qualify	3
PHLT 4900	Integration Seminar	1
Theology		3
Language I		3
Math/Logic (if Ancient is not taken)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Medieval Philosophy (normally satisfied by PHIL 4500, but other courses in medieval thinkers/topics may also qualify)		3
Natural Science		3
Theology		3
Language I		3
Social Sciences (May count as a Social Analysis course)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Modern Philosophy (Normally satisfied by PHIL 4600, but other courses on modern thinkers/topics may also qualify)		3
Philosophy of Human Nature (if needed)	Normally satisfied by PHIL 3300, but other courses with appropriate content may also qualify	3
Language II		3
History		3
Literature		3
Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Year Three</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Epistemology (Satisfied by multiple offerings, including PHIL 3600 and philosophy of science courses)		3
Contemporary Philosophy		3
Social Analysis: Social Sciences		3
Natural Science		3
Language II		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Social Analysis/Special Ethics		3

Social Sciences (May count as Social Analysis course)	3	
Math/Logic (if not taken in semester 2)	3	
Language II	3	
Elective	3	
<b>Credits</b>		
	<b>15</b>	
<b>Year Four</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Social Analysis/Special Ethics (if needed)	3	
Social Sciences (May count as a Social Analysis course)	3	
History	3	
Electives	6	
Capstone Preparation	2	
<b>Credits</b>		
	<b>17</b>	
<b>Spring</b>		
PHLT 4960	Capstone Project	3
Social Analysis/Special Ethics (if needed)	3	
Literature	3	
Electives	3-6	
<b>Credits</b>		
	<b>12-15</b>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		
	<b>126-129</b>	

## Program Notes

### Approval for Course Substitutions

The determination of "appropriate content" for course substitutions is made by the dean of the College of Philosophy and Letters.

### Integrative Seminars

These courses are required of Jesuit students only.

### Social Analysis/Special Ethics Course Requirements

Courses taken to satisfy other requirements (such as the social sciences requirement) may simultaneously satisfy the Social Analysis/Special Ethics requirement with the dean's approval. To the extent possible, students should select courses that focus on areas of contextual analysis that are relevant to their envisioned capstone project. Social analysis courses include courses in social-political philosophy or courses in other disciplines, so long as course content is largely dedicated to understanding aspects of contemporary life, society or culture relevant to the context of ministry for the student's capstone. Special ethics courses are satisfied by:

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 3360	Medical Ethics	3
PHIL 3380	Business Ethics	3
PHIL 3400	Ethics & Engineering	3
PHIL 3420	Environmental and Ecological Ethics	3
PHIL 3430	Philosophy of Law	3

### Contemporary Philosophy Requirement

Satisfied by philosophy offerings that treat thinkers from the late-19th to the 21st centuries or contemporary treatments of philosophical topics (metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science, contemporary ethics, etc.). Special ethics courses do not satisfy this requirement.

## Contact Us

For more information about this and other Philosophy and Letters' programs, please email [catholicstudies@slu.edu](mailto:catholicstudies@slu.edu).