

PHILOSOPHY FOR MINISTRY, B.S.

Saint Louis University's Bachelor of Science in Philosophy for Ministry, offered through the College of Philosophy and Letters, pairs philosophical study with a complementary concentration in mathematics and the natural sciences and is designed for students in religious formation.

SLU also offers a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy for Ministry (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/philosophy-letters/philosophy-ba/>) and an archdiocesan philosophy for ministry B.A. (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/philosophy-letters/philosophy-ba_arch/) (specifically for students on track to ordination to diocesan priesthood) 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

SLU's Bachelor of Science in Philosophy is composed of a 33-credit program core (shared with the humanities and language concentrations of the B.A.), and a 30-credit math and natural sciences concentration. The minimum number of credits required for graduation is 120.

Careers

This program 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 area 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
Undergraduate University Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		32-35
Major Requirements		74-83
<i>Latin, Greek, or Modern Language</i> ¹		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> [†]		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 4400	History of Ancient Greek Philosophy	
PHLT 3100	Ancient Philosophy	
<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> [†]		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 4500	Medieval Philosophy	
PHLT 3200	Medieval Philosophy	

<i>Modern Philosophy</i> [†]		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 4600	History of Modern Philosophy	
PHLT 4100	Modern Philosophy	
<i>Contemporary Philosophy</i> [†]		3
Take one of the following:		
PHIL 4800	Topics and Movements in Contemporary Philosophy	
PHLT 4800	Contemporary Philosophy	
<i>Social Analysis/Special Ethics</i> [‡]		9
<i>Capstone Preparation</i>		2
PHLT 4900	Integration Seminar	
<i>Capstone Project</i>		3
PHLT 4960	Capstone Project	
<i>Concentration</i>		30
Math & Natural Sciences Concentration (p. 2)		
University Electives		5
Total Credits		120

¹ May be satisfied by a passing grade on an approved language proficiency examination.

[†] 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.

Math & Natural Sciences Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
English, American, or World Literature		3
ENGL courses 3000 level or above		
Fine Arts or Art History		3
Any ART, ARTH, DANC, or VPA course		
History		6
HIST courses, one can be at the 1000 level, other should be 2000 level or above		
Mathematics ¹		9
Natural Science		9
BIOL, CHEM, EAS, PHYS courses		
Total Credits		30

¹ Students should take 9 credits of mathematics courses, MATH 1220 Finite Mathematics (3 cr) or higher.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a minimum 2.00 grade point average (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.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research	3
Language		3
Math		3
Credits		15
Spring		
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	2
Theology		3
Language		3
Math/Logic (if Ancient is not taken)		3
Credits		20
Year Two		
Fall		
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
Credits		15
Spring		
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
Natural Science		3
History		3
Literature		3
Elective		3
Credits		18

Year Three

Fall

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
Math	3
Credits	15

Spring

Social Analysis/Special Ethics	3
Social Sciences (May count as Social Analysis course)	3
Math/Logic (if not taken in semester 2)	3
Natural Science	3
History	3
Credits	15

Year Four

Fall

Social Analysis/Special Ethics/Social Sciences (if needed)	3
Natural Science	3
Literature	3
Electives	3-6
Capstone Preparation	2
Credits	14-17

Spring

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

Total Credits 127-130

Program Notes

Approval for Course Substitutions

The dean of the College of Philosophy and Letters determines "appropriate content" for course substitutions.

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.