

Philosophy, Politics and Law, Bachelor of Arts

Student Learning Outcomes (Specific)

- (1) Graduates of the program must acquire both **breadth and depth in the study of philosophy, politics, economics and history, especially as these are brought to bear on fundamental theoretical questions about law, politics, and economics.** The emphasis here is on theoretical and conceptual structures rather than the mastery of empirical data.
 - a. Students will develop and demonstrate, by means of graphic and mathematical techniques, an understanding of the forces of supply and demand, consumer behavior, pricing, markets in productive resources and products, and causes and effects of income distribution. (ECO 284)
 - b. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the measurements of and forces determining national economic variables such as aggregate supply and demand, income, employment, economic cycles, fiscal and monetary policy, and international trade and production. (ECO 285)
 - c. Students will demonstrate an understanding of cultural historical trends and major milestones (to include political, economic and legal development), as these shape current events, in Western civilization. (HIS 100/102; 240/241; 291/292)
 - d. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the rudiments of contemporary political analysis, including comparative study of competing political systems, international influence, or socio-economic and cultural contexts shaping public policy making in the US. (POS 201/250)
 - e. Students will engage in philosophical analysis of the ethical life through close reading and critical analysis of both classical and contemporary philosophical works. (PHI 105)
 - f. Students will demonstrate an understanding of theories of and problems for rational decision-making, especially as these are applied in ethics, economics and politics. (PHI 303)
 - g. Students will demonstrate an understanding of philosophical issues in criminal law such as criminal responsibility, justifications for punishment, civil disobedience, constitutionalism, legal paternalism, and the moral foundations for law. (PHI 347)
 - h. Students will demonstrate an understanding of philosophical issues in political philosophy such as the normative relationships between citizens/subjects and political authority, the moral or legal foundation of political legitimacy, the scope of political authority, obligation to obey the law, the meaning and foundations of such notions as rights, liberty, equality, justice, constitutions. (PHI 357)
 - i. Students will develop a refined understanding of such subjects as business law (ACC 405), macro, micro and international economics (ECO 384/385/486), class and labor history (HIS 495), political economy (POS 335), constitutional law (POS 445), civil liberties (POS 446), or other subject matters related to theories of politics, law, or economics. (Concentration)

(2) Graduates of the program must demonstrate a facility with **analytic tools from a variety of disciplines, including economics, math and statistics, and philosophy**. The facility specified here is general and acquired in a context broader than application of the specific skills in the domains of politics, law and economics.

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- b. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the measurements of and forces determining national economic variables such as aggregate supply and demand, income, employment, economic cycles, fiscal and monetary policy, and international trade and production. (ECO 285)
- c. Students will develop and demonstrate a capacity for data analysis, through graphical and quantitative description, to include simple linear regression and correlation, the study of discrete and continuous random variables, probability distributions, and confidence intervals. (STA 270/275)
- d. Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to think logically and critically through the systematic study of arguments as they occur in everyday life as a foundation for examining political, legal and economic discourse. (PHI 223)
- e. Students will pursue breadth or depth in development of economic, mathematical or other analytic skills (Concentration: ECO 384/385, STA 371/471, MAT courses, PHI 301)

(3) Graduates of the program must demonstrate a developed capacity for **extended writing, especially exegetical, analytic and argumentative in nature**.

- a. Students will demonstrate an understanding of philosophical issues in criminal law such as criminal responsibility, justifications for punishment, civil disobedience, constitutionalism, legal paternalism, and the moral foundations for law. (PHI 347)
- b. Students will demonstrate an understanding of philosophical issues in political philosophy such as the normative relationships between citizens/subjects and political authority, the moral or legal foundation of political legitimacy, the scope of political authority, obligation to obey the law, the meaning and foundations of such notions as rights, liberty, equality, justice, constitutions. (PHI 357)
- c. Students will cultivate the skill of effective writing through analysis and critical evaluation of concepts underwriting market economies such as property, individual liberty, contracts, efficiency, utility, preferences, public goods, moral hazard, distributive justice among others. (PHI 345W)
- d. Students will, demonstrate, through a culminating experience in philosophy, political science or economics, the integration of the analytic methods and relevant disciplinary material to the

analysis of some contemporary policy or some philosophical matter. (PHI 414C/POS 421C/ECO 498C)

- (4) Graduate of the program must achieve fourth semester proficiency in a foreign language.
 - a. Graduates must demonstrate the ability to read and translate a language other than English, at least at the two-year level. Though some languages are more common in the philosophical tradition (e.g., Ancient Greek, Latin, French, and German), an understanding of the difficulties involved in translation of any language aids philosophical comprehension.