

# Philosophy

MAJOR @ VITERBO UNIVERSITY



07/11

## Overview

Philosophy is being recognized more and more as one of the strongest and most versatile undergraduate degrees students can obtain. In fact, employers want employees to be more than just knowledgeable in their chosen field, but also critical thinkers, clear communicators, and ethical decision makers. Philosophy cultivates these skills by teaching students to: 1) think objectively and critically, 2) write clearly and persuasively, 3) break down complex problems/ideas, 4) argue convincingly, 5) analyze policies for consistency and fairness, 6) develop creative and innovative solutions to complex problems, 7) recognize when people are being manipulated, 8) appreciate the value of intellectual history and the power of ideas, 9) contemplate the larger meaning and purpose of life, 10) see the importance of questioning and intellectual curiosity, 11) make transparent and reliable ethical decisions, and 12) conduct and organize research.

## Why Viterbo?

- Viterbo is a Catholic, Franciscan, ecumenical university with a strong liberal arts tradition. Viterbo offers a bachelor of arts that provides a well-rounded introduction to all the major areas of philosophy.
- With small classes (most upper division classes have less than 15 students) and flexible degree requirements, Viterbo provides an intimate learning atmosphere.
- Viterbo's religious studies/philosophy faculty are dedicated to students and committed to making the study of philosophy a rewarding experience.

## Career Options

Earning a degree in philosophy is ideal preparation for graduate school, especially for law, the humanities, or business. Philosophy, by itself or in combination with a second degree, provides the skills and adaptability to pursue a wide variety of interesting career paths. Some possibilities include:

- administrator
- business professional
- college professor
- editor
- high school principal or teacher
- intelligence work (FBI/CIA)
- lawyer
- librarian
- police detective
- priest or minister
- technical writer

**For More Information** [www.viterbo.edu/phil](http://www.viterbo.edu/phil)

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**Rev. William Reese**, chair, religious studies/philosophy [wjreese@viterbo.edu](mailto:wjreese@viterbo.edu)

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# Program Requirements

Total Philosophy Core Requirements—36 semester hours

Total Credits for the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy—128 semester hours

## General Education

See the catalog for the list of required general education courses .....	45 semester hours
World Language .....	14 semester hours
Support Courses .....	24 semester hours
HIST 101 and 102 and either 247 or 335	
ENGL 307 and either 341 or 354	
PSYC 100 and 425	
RLST 410	

## Philosophy Core

### Philosophy – Foundations

Students are required to take three credits from the following list:

PHIL 100 Introduction to Ethics .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 105 Critical Thinking.....	3 semester hours

### Philosophy – History.....9 semester hours

Students are required to take nine credits from the following list:

PHIL 311 Readings in Ancient Philosophy .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 312 Readings in Medieval Philosophy .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 313 Readings in Modern Philosophy .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 333 Readings in Contemporary Philosophy.....	3 semester hours

### Philosophy – Topics.....9 semester hours

Students are required to take nine credits from the following list:

PHIL 320 Logic .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 340 Philosophy of the Human Person .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 370 Aesthetics .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 400 Senior Seminar.....	3 semester hours

### Philosophy – Electives..... 15 semester hours

Students are required to take 15 credits from the following list of elective courses. A maximum of six credits can be from PHIL 286 or 486 (special topics), and a maximum of three credits from 288 or 488 (independent study).

PHIL 244 Philosophy for Children .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 286 Special Topics .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 302 Environmental Ethics.....	3 semester hours
PHIL 310 Philosophy of Religion .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 315 Ethics and the Law .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 316 Philosophy in Literature .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 317 Philosophy of Science .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 321 Ethics, Life Decision, and Medicine.....	3 semester hours
PHIL 360 Political Philosophy .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 365 Philosophy in Latin America .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 381 Philosophy of History .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 486 Special Topics .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 488 Independent Study .....	3 semester hours
PHIL 490 Practicum.....	3 semester hours

**For complete degree requirements, refer to the course catalog.**