

# Philosophy: Bachelor of Arts Honours, Major, and Minor

<b>Faculty of Arts</b>	kpu.ca/arts
<b>Philosophy</b>	kpu.ca/arts/philosophy
<b>Implementation Date</b>	01-Sep-2011
<b>Start Date(s)</b>	September January
<b>Admission Type</b>	Selective entry
<b>Enrolment Type</b>	Open enrolment
<b>Program Type</b>	Undergraduate
<b>Credential Granted</b>	Baccalaureate Degree
<b>Offered At</b>	Richmond Surrey
<b>Format</b>	Full-time Part-time
<b>How to Apply</b>	www.kpu.ca/admission

## DESCRIPTION

The philosophy major at Kwantlen Polytechnic University provides students a broad-based, general education in the principal areas of Western Philosophy. Philosophy majors will complete courses in logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and history of philosophy. The program is expressly set up to satisfy a variety of additional pedagogical and intellectual objectives, chief among these being the development of critical reasoning and writing skills, both in general and with regard to specialized research in the discipline. Philosophy majors at KPU will experience a learning environment that is supportive and challenging. It is one that prepares students for graduate work in philosophy. It develops effective citizenship, community leadership and the critical reasoning, writing and problem-solving skills required for successful careers in any area.

The Bachelor of Arts Major in Philosophy provides students the opportunity to build a sturdy educational foundation in one of the core areas of the Humanities. All majors take formal logic. At the 2000-level, five courses in philosophy are obligatory: Moral Theory (the study of the nature of right and wrong), Metaphysics (the study of the nature of reality), Epistemology (the study of the nature and limits of knowledge), Ancient Greek Philosophy and Modern Philosophy. Completing the major requires successful participation in a minimum of six courses at the 3000 and two at the 4000 level. Completing the minor in Philosophy requires Metaphysics and Epistemology at the 2000 level and five courses at the 3000 or 4000 level.

Third- and fourth-year students will have the following options: to take smaller, more participatory courses in Special Topics in Philosophy; to pursue an Applied Ethics Stream by taking specially designed courses in Business, Environmental, and Biomedical Ethics; to participate in a Practicum course where research and work skills are enhanced; and to apply to a selective sequence of honours courses with a focus on researching and writing an honours thesis.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A philosophy major is a practical choice. A good reason to major in philosophy is that philosophy students develop skills that are transferable to a wide range of careers and professions,

particularly including business and law. Philosophy students learn how to identify assumptions, raise critical questions, and formulate creative, principled strategies for addressing complex problems. They develop expertise in structuring arguments, writing precisely and clearly, and communicating their ideas in an orderly, persuasive, and unambiguous way. Philosophy courses, in general, teach students how to read, comprehend, and summarize conceptually difficult material. In short, studying philosophy trains one to be a better, clearer and independent thinker.

## PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to KPU's General university admission requirements, including the undergraduate-level English Proficiency Requirement, the following program admission requirements apply:

### Year One Admission:

- English 12 with a 'B' (or equivalent)
- Mathematics:
  - Minimum grade of 'C' in Pre-Calculus 11, Principles of Mathematics 11, or Applications of Mathematics 12 (or equivalent); or
  - Minimum grade of 'C+' in Foundations of Mathematics 11 (or equivalent); or
  - Minimum grade of 'C-' in Pre-Calculus 12 or Foundations of Mathematics 12 (or equivalent)

### Year Three Admission:

- 60 credits with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 (including all 1100- and 2000-level major/minor program requirements).
- Grade of 'C' in all required 1000- and 2000-level courses, including the English writing requirement (ENGL 1100 and one of either ENGL 1202 or 1204, or equivalent).
- Two Quantitative courses (total of six or more credits).
- 12 credits of breadth courses
- Mathematics:
  - Minimum grade of 'C' in Pre-Calculus 11, Principles of Mathematics 11, or Applications of Mathematics 12 (or equivalent); or
  - Minimum grade of 'C+' in Foundations of Mathematics 11 (or equivalent); or
  - Minimum grade of 'C-' in Pre-Calculus 12 or Foundations of Mathematics 12 (or equivalent); or
  - Minimum grade of 'C+' in the above Two Quantitative courses (three credits of which must be from the Faculty of Science & Horticulture)
- Second language at the Grade 11 level or 6 credits of post-secondary language courses in the same language. Note: Students need only achieve a passing grade to fulfill this requirement. Beginner's or Introductory Language 11 courses are ineligible to meet this requirement. Students who can demonstrate competency in a second language may request an assessment to have this requirement waived.

### Honours Admission:

Students with a record of exceptional academic performance may apply to enter the Philosophy Major, or Philosophy Major Applied Ethics Stream, Honours Program. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- at least 60 credits of university-level coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- at least 24 of the 60 credits must be university-level philosophy coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.67.

The above are minimum requirements that do not guarantee entrance into the Honours Program. In exceptional situations, the department may consider applications from students who do not meet the minimum requirements, if mitigating circumstances exist. Such applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

## Qualifying Year

Students who do not qualify upon initial application to KPU may be eligible for entry to the Qualifying Year. Students who possess at least a 'C' in English 12 (or equivalent) and a passing grade in either Pre-Calculus 11, Principles of Math 11, Foundations of Mathematics 11, Applications of Math 12 (or equivalents) will be able to apply for entry to the BA Qualifying Year. Students will be admitted to the BA program in the second year provided they have successfully completed appropriate qualifying courses. Other applicants who do not qualify are encouraged to consult an Educational Advisor for the appropriate qualifying courses that satisfy the application criteria.

## CONTINUANCE REQUIREMENTS

Current BA students must meet the following requirements to continue into their 3rd year of study. Registration access to third or fourth year courses is first awarded to students who have completed the following:

- 60 credits with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 (including all 1100- and 2000-level major/minor program requirements).
- Grade of 'C' in all required 1000-and 2000-level courses, including the English writing requirement (ENGL 1100 and one of either ENGL 1202 or 1204, or equivalent).
- Two Quantitative courses (total of six or more credits).
- 12 credits of breadth courses
- Second language at the Grade 11 level or 6 credits of post-secondary language courses in the same language. Note: Students need only achieve a passing grade to fulfill this requirement. Beginner's or Introductory Language 11 courses are ineligible to meet this requirement. Students who can demonstrate competency in a second language may request an assessment to have this requirement waived.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree must complete all requirements in the Bachelor of Arts framework in addition to their major or minor program requirements.

### Philosophy Honours

The following are the requirements for the Philosophy Honours program.

In addition to the requirements of the Major in Philosophy, or the Major in Philosophy Applied Ethics Stream, students enrolled in the Honours Program must successfully complete two honours courses. The purpose of these courses is to lead to the production of an undergraduate thesis – a major research accomplishment.

### Students choosing the Honours degree, must take the following in lieu of 2 electives:

PHIL 3900	Honours Research and Thesis I	3 credits
PHIL 4900	Honours Research and Thesis II	3 credits

To qualify for the Philosophy Honours degree, students must have been admitted to the Honours program prior to earning the Philosophy degree. Students may receive either the Philosophy degree or the Philosophy Honours degree, but not both.

### Philosophy Major

Requirements for the major in philosophy include the successful completion of a minimum of 48 credits in philosophy, of which at least 18 credits are at the 3rd year level, and at least 6 credits are at the 4th year level.

As part of the 48 credits in philosophy, majors must complete the following:

#### Logic Requirement - at least 3 credits:

PHIL 1150	Introduction to Formal Logic	3 credits
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#### History of Philosophy Requirement - at least 9 credits:

PHIL 2106	Ancient Greek Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 2107	Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant	3 credits

3 further credits at the 3rd year or higher in the History of Philosophy (see list of courses by area below)

#### Metaphysics and Epistemology Requirement - at least 9 credits:

PHIL 2210	Epistemology	3 credits
PHIL 2215	Metaphysics	3 credits

3 further credits at the 3rd year or higher in Metaphysics or Epistemology (see list of courses by area below)

#### Ethics Requirement - at least 9 credits:

PHIL 2110	Moral Theory	3 credits
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#### One of the following:

PHIL 3109	Foundations in Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 3119	Contemporary Moral Theory	3 credits
PHIL 4110	Topics in Ethics	3 credits

3 further credits at the 3rd year or higher in Value Theory (see list of courses by area below)

### APPLIED ETHICS STREAM

#### Besides the requirements for the philosophy major, students must complete at least 9 additional credits in Applied Ethics from the following:

PHIL 3118	Ethics and Public Policy	3 credits
PHIL 3510	Confronting Moral Issues: Bio-medical Ethics	3 credits

PHIL 3512	Confronting Moral Issues: The Natural Environment	3 credits
PHIL 3533	Confronting Moral Issues: Business Ethics	3 credits

PHIL 3100	Great Philosophers of the 20th Century	3 credits
PHIL 3101	20th Century Analytic Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 3105	Life and Death	3 credits
PHIL 3109	Foundations of Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 3110	The Possibility of Knowledge	3 credits
PHIL 3118	Ethics and Public Policy	3 credits
PHIL 3119	Contemporary Moral Theory	3 credits
PHIL 3120	Free Will and Determinism	3 credits
PHIL 3150	Advanced Formal logic	3 credits
PHIL 3220	Empiricism	3 credits
PHIL 3225	Rationalism	3 credits
PHIL 3320	Personal Identity	3 credits
PHIL 3425	Language and Meaning	3 credits
PHIL 3430	Philosophy of Mind: Consciousness	3 credits
PHIL 3533	Confronting Moral Issues: Business Ethics	3 credits

## Philosophy Minor

Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 PHIL credits to Minor in Philosophy. Students take at least 15 PHIL credits (5 courses) at the first or second year level which must include PHIL 2110, 2210 and PHIL 2215. Choose from the following list:

**Students must complete at least 15 PHIL credits (5 courses) at the first or second year level which must include PHIL 2110, 2210 and PHIL 2215. Choose from the following list:**

### 1000 Level

PHIL 1100	Introduction to Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 1101	Philosophy, Culture, and Identity	3 credits
PHIL 1106	Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 1110	Confronting Moral Issues: Introduction to Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 1111	Sustainability and Ethical Analysis	3 credits
PHIL 1112	Environmental Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 1145	Critical Thinking	3 credits
PHIL 1150	Introduction to Formal Logic	3 credits
PHIL 1155	Introduction to Scientific Reasoning	3 credits

### 2000 Level

PHIL 2106	Ancient Greek Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 2107	Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant	3 credits
PHIL 2110	Moral Theory	3 credits
PHIL 2115	Asian Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 2117	Social and Political Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 2120	Philosophy of Religion	3 credits
PHIL 2150	Philosophical Paradoxes, Puzzles and Enigmas	3 credits
PHIL 2210	Epistemology	3 credits
PHIL 2215	Metaphysics	3 credits

**Students must complete a minimum of 15 credits (5 courses) of 3000 and 4000 level PHIL courses. Any combination of courses from the list below will satisfy the Bachelor of Arts Minor in Philosophy program requirements.**

### 3000 Level

PHIL 3033	Business Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 3040	Philosophy of Art	3 credits

### 4000 Level

PHIL 4040	Topics in the Philosophy of Art	3 credits
PHIL 4110	Topics in Ethics Theory	3 credits
PHIL 4117	Topics in Social and Political Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 4120	Topics in Philosophy of Religion	3 credits
PHIL 4210	Topics in Epistemology	3 credits
PHIL 4215	Topics in Metaphysics	3 credits
PHIL 4430	Topics in Philosophy of Mind	3 credits

**Note:** Certain pre-requisites must be met in order to gain admission to 3000 and 4000 level PHIL courses.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Philosophy Courses by Area

A course appearing in boldface type signals that the course is required for the major. No single course can count for more than one area. Students may take the same 4th year Topics course twice for different credit if and only if the content differs significantly. Students who wish to take the same 4th year Topics course more than once must obtain the permission of the Chair of the Philosophy Department.

### Logic

PHIL 1145	Critical Thinking	3 credits
<b>PHIL 1150</b>	<b>Introduction to Formal Logic</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
PHIL 1155	Introduction to Scientific Reasoning	3 credits
PHIL 3150	Advanced Formal Logic	3 credits

## History of Philosophy

PHIL 1106	Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	3 credits
<b>PHIL 2106</b>	<b>Ancient Greek Philosophy</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>PHIL 2107</b>	<b>Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
PHIL 2115	Asian Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 2150	Philosophical Paradoxes, Puzzles and Enigmas	3 credits
PHIL 3100	Great Philosophers of the Twentieth Century	3 credits
PHIL 3101	Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 3220	Empiricism	3 credits
PHIL 3225	Rationalism	3 credits

## Metaphysics and Epistemology

PHIL 2120	Philosophy of Religion	3 credits
PHIL 2150	Philosophical Paradoxes, Puzzles and Enigmas	3 credits
<b>PHIL 2210</b>	<b>Epistemology</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>PHIL 2215</b>	<b>Metaphysics</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
PHIL 3100	Great Philosophers of the Twentieth Century	3 credits
PHIL 3101	Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 3105	Life and Death	3 credits
PHIL 3110	The Possibility of Knowledge	3 credits
PHIL 3120	Free Will and Determinism	3 credits
PHIL 3220	Empiricism	3 credits
PHIL 3225	Rationalism	3 credits
PHIL 3320	Personal Identity	3 credits
PHIL 3425	Language and Meaning	3 credits
PHIL 3430	Philosophy of Mind: Consciousness	3 credits
PHIL 4120	Topics in Philosophy of Religion	3 credits
PHIL 4210	Topics in Epistemology	3 credits
PHIL 4215	Topics in Metaphysics	3 credits
PHIL 4430	Topics in Philosophy of Mind	3 credits

## Ethics and Value Theory

PHIL 1110	Confronting Moral Issues: Introduction to Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 1112	Environmental Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 2110	Moral Theory	3 credits
PHIL 2117	Social and Political Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 3010	Health Care Ethics (not for majors)	3 credits

PHIL 3033	Business Ethics (not for majors)	3 credits
PHIL 3040	Philosophy of Art	3 credits
PHIL 3105	Life and Death	3 credits
PHIL 3109	Foundations in Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 3118	Ethics and Public Policy	3 credits
PHIL 3119	Contemporary Moral Theory	3 credits
PHIL 3510	Confronting Moral Issues: Bio-Medical Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 3512	Confronting Moral Issues: the Natural Environment	3 credits
PHIL 3533	Confronting Moral Issues in Business	3 credits
PHIL 4040	Topics in the Philosophy of Art	3 credits
PHIL 4110	Topics in Ethics	3 credits
PHIL 4117	Topics in Social and Political Philosophy	3 credits

## Other

PHIL 1100	Introduction to Philosophy	3 credits
PHIL 1101	Philosophy, Culture, and Identity	3 credits
PHIL 1111	Sustainability and Ethical Analysis	3 credits
PHIL 3900	Honours Research and Thesis I	3 credits
PHIL 4900	Honours Research and Thesis II	3 credits
PHIL 4950	Practicum	3 credits

## CREDENTIAL AWARDED

Upon successful completion of the honours program, students are eligible to receive a **Bachelor of Arts (Honours)**. Transcripts will indicate a **Major in Philosophy**.

Upon successful completion of the major program students are eligible to receive a **Bachelor of Arts**. Transcripts will indicate a **Major in Philosophy**.

Upon successful completion of the minor as part of a Bachelor of Arts program, transcripts will indicate a **Minor in Philosophy**.