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## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revisions to the BALAS in Philosophy, Department of Philosophy,  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

**SPONSOR:** Prof. Kirk Sanders, Head, Department of Philosophy, 300-3887,  
[ksanders@illinois.edu](mailto:ksanders@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Kelly Ritter, Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy,  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, [ritterk@illinois.edu](mailto:ritterk@illinois.edu), 333-1350

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** This revision proposes the following changes to the major: (1) A reduction/streamlining of course options for required hours in the areas of Logic, Ethical Theories, and Metaphysics/Theory of Knowledge; (2) The addition of a required 3-credit capstone course (PHIL 499); and (3) the reduction of additional hours of required coursework from 15 to 12. The total number of hours for the degree (32) is unchanged. Our goal in making the above changes is to increase the sense of shared experience among our majors while also providing them a common core of philosophical knowledge, the continued flexibility to explore in greater detail areas of particular interest, and a capstone seminar experience.

**JUSTIFICATION:** The revised requirements for the most part represent a reduction of options in the existing requirements, with an eye to identifying core courses that the department regards as foundational in both practical and theoretical philosophy. For example, rather than three options to satisfy the logic requirement, there would be only one (PHIL 202) going forward. Similarly, with respect to the requirement of one upper-level course in practical philosophy, the department wishes to require PHIL 421 Ethical Theories of all students rather than to have it be one of seven options, as it is currently. The addition of PHIL 499 as a final requirement is intended to provide a capstone experience to all majors in order to further develop their analytical and writing skills.

### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

1) Resources:

No additional resources are required by the proposed changes.

2) Resource Implications:

In order to be able to offer at least two sections per semester of the proposed Capstone Seminar in Philosophy (open only to majors), the department will reduce its other 400-level offerings from 8-9 per semester to 6-7 per semester. Given that existing 400-level courses in

Philosophy are capped at 35 students but typically enroll between 15 and 25 students each, we anticipate being able to continue to provide a sufficiently diverse set of course offerings at the 400-level that will still meet enrollment demands while also staffing these new Capstone Seminars.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2019

**CLEARANCES:**

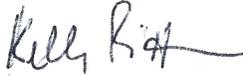
Signatures:



October 1, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:



11-1-18

\_\_\_\_\_  
College Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

## STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC CATALOG:

### OVERVIEW TAB

Philosophy is the oldest, broadest, and most fundamental form of inquiry. It is also by nature highly interdisciplinary. Philosophy addresses questions that concern human nature and our relationship to the world, the nature of reality more generally, the basis of law and morality, the conditions for knowledge, the foundations of mathematics and the sciences, and more. Philosophy as an academic discipline examines the answers to such questions offered by both historical and contemporary figures, as well as develops the analytical and critical skills that enable students to assess evidence; to construct and evaluate arguments; and to think, speak, and write with clarity and precision. The major and minor are sponsored by the Department of Philosophy.

### MAJOR TAB

## For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Major in Philosophy

E-mail: [phildept@illinois.edu](mailto:phildept@illinois.edu)

Minimum required major and supporting course work normally equates to 44 hours including at least 32 hours of Philosophy courses

General education: Students must complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours. Students will complete 40 hours of upper-division coursework (these hours can be drawn from all elements of the degree).

Departmental distinction:

Students who maintain a GPA  $\geq 3.5$  in the major and receive a grade of A- in PHIL 499 will graduate with distinction.

Students who maintain a GPA  $\geq 3.5$  but  $< 3.7$  in the major and receive a grade of A or better in PHIL 499 will graduate with high distinction.

Students who maintain  $GPA \geq 3.7$  in the major and receive a grade of A or better in PHIL 499 will graduate with highest distinction.

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Hours</b>
PHIL 202: Symbolic Logic	<b>3</b>
PHIL 203: Ancient Philosophy	<b>4</b>
PHIL 206: Early Modern Philosophy	<b>4</b>
PHIL 421: Ethical Theories	<b>3</b>
PHIL 426: Metaphysics <b>or</b> PHIL 430: Theory of Knowledge	<b>3</b>
PHIL 499: Capstone Seminar	<b>3</b>
At least 12 additional hours of coursework in Philosophy, with 9 of those hours being above the 100-level (including at least two 300- or 400-level courses)	<b>12</b>
A student may select either of two types of programs of supporting course work and should work out a specific program of the type chosen with the help and approval of a departmental adviser. Twelve hours minimum. Select from:  Option I: Intensive study in another discipline. Courses normally beyond the 100 level in one other discipline. Most approved minors satisfy this requirement. A second major may also be used to satisfy this requirement  Or  Option II: A special program of study built around a unifying theme or topic. Course work outside philosophy in one or more other discipline(s), normally beyond the 100 level.	<b>12</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

**Appendix A:**  
Comparative Table of Proposed Changes

<b>Current Requirements</b>	<b>Current Hours</b>	<b>Proposed Requirements</b>	<b>Proposed Hours</b>
Total hours in Philosophy	32	Total hours in Philosophy	32
Logic:  <i>Select one of the following:</i> PHIL 102, PHIL 103, or PHIL 202	3	Logic:  PHIL 202: Symbolic Logic	3
PHIL 203: Ancient Philosophy	4	PHIL 203: Ancient Philosophy	4
PHIL 206: Early Modern Philosophy	4	PHIL 206: Early Modern Philosophy	4
At least one course in Ethics and Value Theory from the following:  PHIL 421, PHIL 422, PHIL 427, PHIL 429, PHIL 435, PHIL 436, PHIL 441	3	PHIL 421 Ethical Theories	3
At least one course in Epistemology and Metaphysics from the following:  PHIL 425, PHIL 426, PHIL 430, PHIL 437, PHIL 438, PHIL 443	3	PHIL 426: Metaphysics  OR  PHIL 430: Theory of Knowledge	3
		PHIL 499: Capstone Seminar	3
At least 15 additional hours of coursework in philosophy, with 12 of those hours being above the 100-level (including at least two 300- or 400-level courses).	15	At least 12 additional hours of coursework in philosophy, with 9 of those hours being above the 100-level (including at least two 300- or 400-level courses)	12

<p>A student may select either of two types of programs of supporting course work and should work out a specific program of the type chosen with the help and approval of a departmental adviser. Twelve hours minimum. Select from:</p> <p>Option I: Intensive study in another discipline. Courses normally beyond the 100 level in one other discipline. Most approved minors satisfy this requirement. A second major may also be used to satisfy this requirement</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Option II: A special program of study built around a unifying theme or topic. Course work outside philosophy in one or more other discipline(s), normally beyond the 100 level.</p>	12	<p>A student may select either of two types of programs of supporting course work and should work out a specific program of the type chosen with the help and approval of a departmental adviser. Twelve hours minimum. Select from:</p> <p>Option I: Intensive study in another discipline. Courses normally beyond the 100 level in one other discipline. Most approved minors satisfy this requirement. A second major may also be used to satisfy this requirement</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Option II: A special program of study built around a unifying theme or topic. Course work outside philosophy in one or more other discipline(s), normally beyond the 100 level.</p>	12
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>44</b>

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



November 6, 2018

Gay Miller, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Philosophy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn A. Martensen', written in a cursive style.

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Sanders  
K. Ritter  
A. Elli



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

Office of the Dean  
2090 Lincoln Hall  
702 S. Wright St.  
Urbana, IL 61801

November 1, 2018

Kathryn Martensen  
Associate Provost  
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
207 Swanlund Administration Building  
MC-304

Dear Kathy:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

**Revision to the BALAS in Philosophy**

This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation in Fall 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelly Ritter'.

Kelly Ritter  
Associate Dean

enclosures

C: Professor Kirk Sanders