Department of Philosophy and World Religions

(College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences)

www.uni.edu/philrel

The Department of Philosophy and World Religions offers the following programs:

Undergraduate Majors (B.A.)

• Philosophy (p. 1)
• Religious Studies (p. 2)

Minors

• Ethics (p. 3)
• Philosophy (p. 4)
• Religious Studies (p. 4)

Program Certificate (p. 4)

• Religious Literacy (p. 5)
• Youth Work in Religious Settings (p. 5) (also listed in Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services)

Bachelor of Arts Degree Programs

Philosophy Major

The Philosophy major requires a minimum of 120 total hours to graduate. This total includes UNIFI/General Education requirements, 36 hours of coursework in the major, plus electives to complete the minimum of 120 hours.

The philosophy major is designed to provide depth and breadth in the study of philosophy, emphasizing the skills of logical reasoning, analytic reading, effective writing, and ethical reasoning, as well as focused study of the history of western philosophy, and fundamental conceptions of human nature and human practices. The major is also flexible, so that students can take courses of interest to them. Courses in the philosophy major give students an opportunity to gain useful conceptual tools, increase their flexibility of mind, and improve their ability to view issues from multiple perspectives. Philosophy is one of the best pre-law majors; philosophy majors typically do extremely well in admission tests to graduate and professional schools.

The philosophy major stresses learning goals that enable students to achieve the skills deemed essential by employers, in particular, strong critical thinking and communication skills. Because the major is organized around learning goals, students know exactly why they are taking each class. As they explore philosophy, they also see that each class is helping them to become college graduates who possess knowledge and skills valued by employers as well as professional and graduate schools.

Philosophy Major - Learning Goals and Courses

What is a learning goal?

A learning goal is a set of skills or body of knowledge that a student should expect to acquire or expand their mastery of by completing a particular major.

By establishing learning goals, majors in Philosophy know exactly why they are taking each class. These learning goals divide the classes taken by majors in Philosophy into categories that are easily understood and that guide the student through the major and the learning process.

Learning Goal 1: Skills: Philosophy majors will demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, analytical writing, reading and understanding complex materials; as well as analyzing, evaluating, and constructing arguments.

Courses that support Learning Goal 1:

Logical Reasoning

Required:

PHIL 1030 Elementary Logic 3

Reading for Arguments and Assumptions

Students who have completed Learning Goal 4 will have satisfied this requirement.

Analytic Writing

Students who have completed Learning Goal 4 will have satisfied this requirement.

Learning Goal 2: Ethical Reasoning: Philosophy majors will understand ethical theories and use this understanding to think through moral and ethical problems in a principled and systematic way.

Courses that support Learning Goal 2:

Required:

PHIL 2500 Ethics 3

Learning Goal 3: History of Philosophy: By reading key texts from the rich western philosophical tradition, Philosophy majors will gain useful conceptual tools, increase their flexibility of mind, and improve their ability to view issues from multiple perspectives.

Courses that support Learning Goal 3:

Required: at least three course from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 2210</td>
<td>Dawn of Western Thought: Ancient Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL/RELS 2220</td>
<td>Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 2230</td>
<td>The Age of Reason: Philosophy in the Renaissance and Enlightenment</td>
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**Department of Philosophy and World Religions**

PHIL 2240  The Limits of Reason: Modern Philosophy

**Learning Goal 4: Philosophy majors will investigate fundamental conceptions of what it means to be a person and to engage in essential human activities.**

**Courses that support Learning Goal 4:**

A. Understanding Human Nature

Required: at least two courses from the following: 6

- PHIL 3310  Consciousness and Mind: Philosophical Perspectives
- PHIL 3330  Death, Sex and the Body: Phenomenology and Foucault
- PHIL 3360  Intellectual Vices and Virtues: Theory and Practice
- PHIL 3610  Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology

B. Basic Human Practices

Required: at least two courses from the following. 6

At least one of these courses must be in "analytical philosophy": either PHIL 3350 or PHIL 3620. (Taking both of these courses will completely satisfy this requirement.)

- PHIL 2140  Philosophy of Religion
- PHIL 3320  Political Philosophy *
- PHIL 3350  How We Know: Philosophical Perspectives
- PHIL 3370  Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 3620  Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein

**Learning Goal 5: Career Preparation: Philosophy majors will be able to relate their major to their careers and to their future goals.**

Required:

- PHIL 4490  Professional Development Seminar 3

Through thoughtful reflection and critical discernment, students synthesize their work in the major, clarifying what they have done and linking their achievements with life goals, while they also explore how deep learning outcomes in the major offer preparation for a career, graduate or professional school.

Electives: in order to reach 36 hours, students can choose from courses not used above or from the following courses in Philosophy. No more than two courses in applied ethics (PHIL 1540, PHIL 1560, PHIL 2550, PHIL 2570, PHIL 3110, PHIL 3510) count toward the philosophy major:

- PHIL 1040  Justice and the Good Life: Philosophical Perspectives R
- PHIL 1050  The Art of Critical Thinking and Writing WC
- PHIL 1080  World Philosophies HCG
- PHIL/RELS 1540  Ethics in Business
- PHIL 1560  Science, Technology, and Ethics (STE) R
- PHIL 2140  Philosophy of Religion
- PHIL 2570  Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality *
- PHIL/RELS 3110/ CAP 3194  Perspectives on Death and Dying **HCG
- PHIL 3186  Studies in Philosophy
- PHIL/RELS 3510/ CAP 3173  Bio-Medical Ethics **R
- PHIL 4080  Individual Readings in Philosophy
- PHIL/RELS 2550  Environmental Ethics *
- PHIL 2570  Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality *
- PHIL/RELS 3110/ CAP 3194  Perspectives on Death and Dying **HCG
- PHIL 3186  Studies in Philosophy
- PHIL/RELS 3510/ CAP 3173  Bio-Medical Ethics **R
- PHIL 4080  Individual Readings in Philosophy

Total hours 36

* Courses followed by asterisk (*) count toward the Ethics minor (15-hour minor).

^ Courses followed by the symbol (^) also satisfy the Liberal Arts Core Capstone requirement.

QR Courses followed by (QR) also satisfy the UNIFI Quantitative Reasoning category.

R Courses followed by (R) also satisfy the UNIFI Responsibility category.

WC Courses followed by (WC) also satisfy the UNIFI Written Communication category.

HCG Courses followed by (HCG) also satisfy the UNIFI Human Condition: Global category.

**Religious Studies Major**

The Religious Studies major requires a minimum of 120 total hours to graduate. This total includes UNIFI/General Education requirements, 36 hours of coursework in the major, plus electives to complete the minimum of 120 hours.

The Religious Studies major is designed to provide depth and breadth in the study of religion, emphasizing the beliefs and practices of the major world religions, as well as focused study of the multiple ways that religions shape and reflect the world around us. The major is also flexible, so that students can take courses of interest to them.

Courses in the study of religion give students an opportunity to become reflective and respectful global citizens in our increasingly diverse world.

In planning the Religious Studies major, we have listened to employers. The major prioritizes learning goals that enable students to learn about religion and achieve outcomes that employers value.

We know that employers want to hire college graduates who have strong communication and critical thinking skills and who can interact empathetically and effectively with persons from different cultural and religious backgrounds. Because the major is organized around learning goals, students always know exactly why they are taking each class. As they explore religion, they also see that each class is helping them to become college graduates who possess knowledge and skills valued by employers.

**Study of Religion Major - Learning Goals and Courses**

**What is a learning goal?**

A learning goal is a set of skills or body of knowledge that a student should expect to acquire, or expand their mastery of, by completing a particular major.

Having established “learning goals” allows majors in Religion to know exactly why they are taking each class. These learning goals
divide the classes taken by majors in Religion into categories that are easily understood and that guide the student through the major and the learning process.

Learning Goal 1:
Majors in the Study of Religion demonstrate an ability to reflect critically and empathetically on the subject.

Courses support Learning Goal 1:
A. Religion and Culture
One course from the following:
- RELS 2600 Religion and the Public Schools
- RELS/PHIL 3110/ CAP 3194 Perspectives on Death and Dying
- RELS 3150 Women and Christianity*
- RELS 3400 Religion and Race
- RELS 3500 Religion and Ethics
- RELS 4230/5230 Religion in America*

B. Textual and Analytical Explorations of Religion
One course from the following:
- RELS 2001 Old Testament and Other Hebrew Scriptures
- RELS 2002 New Testament and Early Christian Writings
- RELS/PHIL 2140 Philosophy of Religion*
- RELS 3200 Religion and Law

Learning Goal 2:
Majors in the Study of Religion have knowledge of the beliefs, practices, and worldviews of major living religions.

Courses support Learning Goal 2:
A. Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion
One course from the following:
- RELS 2100 Hinduism and Buddhism
- RELS 2110 Confucianism, Daoism, and Zen

One course from the following:
- RELS 2120 Judaism and Islam
- RELS 2130 Christianity

B. Interactions Within and Among Religions
One course from the following:
- RELS 1040 The Power of Myth: (Topic)
- RELS 1060 American Religious Diversity
- RELS/PHIL 2220 Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages
- RELS 3180 Religion and Politics: (Topics)

Learning Goal 3:
Majors in the Study of Religion have skills that are highly valued by employers; they are able to relate their major to their career and to their future goals.

Courses support Learning Goal 3:

Writing Enhanced Courses
Two writing enhanced courses are required. Students must take at least two courses marked with an asterisk (*) for the Study of Religion major.

Senior Seminar
Required:
- RELS 4490 Professional Development Seminar

Through thoughtful reflection and critical discernment, students synthesize their work in the major, clarifying what they have done and linking their achievements with life goals, while they also explore how deep learning outcomes in the major offer preparation for a career, graduate or professional school.

Electives: in order to reach 36 hours, students can choose from courses not used above or from the following courses in Religion. All courses 3000 level or higher (including any RELS 3159 course) that do not already fulfill other requirements for the major are considered Electives:
- RELS 1020 Religions of the World
- RELS 1510 Religion, Ethics, and Film
- RELS 3080/5080 Individual Readings in Religion
- RELS 4186/5186 Studies in Religion
- RELS 4600 Internship in Religion

and not more than two courses from:
- RELS/PHIL 2550 Environmental Ethics
- RELS/PHIL 2570 Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality
- RELS 1540 Ethics in Business
- RELS/PHIL 3510/ CAP 3173 Bio-Medical Ethics

Total hours 36

Pre-Theological Emphasis
Students preparing for ministry or for graduate professional education in theology at a seminary or divinity school, regardless of major, are advised to consult with the pre-theological advisor, who will help them to know the requirements of individual schools and to plan an undergraduate program appropriately designed for their professional interests.

Minors

Ethics Minor
The Ethics minor is intended to provide students of diverse major fields of study a way to focus and develop their interest in ethics both by offering them a core of courses essential to an understanding of the field of ethics and by advising them in the selection of courses that enable them to develop depth and detail in theoretical, professional and applied ethics.

Ethics Core--Required:
Philosophy:
- PHIL 2500 Ethics
Religious Studies:

- RELS 3500 Religion and Ethics 3

**Introductory Courses: select one of the following:** 3

Religious Studies:

- RELS 1020 Religions of the World
- RELS 1060 American Religious Diversity

Philosophy or Religious Studies:

- PHIL/RELS 1540 Ethics in Business (can count in introductory, applied, or elective categories, but only one)

Philosophy:

- PHIL 1040 Justice and the Good Life: Philosophical Perspectives

**Applied Ethics: select one of the following:** 3

Philosophy:

- PHIL 1560 Science, Technology, and Ethics (STE) (Can also count as an elective, but not as both)

Philosophy or Religious Studies

- PHIL/RELS 2550 Environmental Ethics (Can also count as an elective, but not as both)
- PHIL/RELS 2570 Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality (Can also count as an elective, but not as both.)
- PHIL/RELS 3510 Bio-Medical Ethics (Can also count as an elective, but not as both)

Management:

- MGMT/PHIL/RELS 3974 Business, Ethics, and Society (Can also count as an elective, but not as both) *

**Electives: select one of the following:** 3

Business:

- MGMT 3100 Legal and Social Environment of Business

Communications:

- COMM 3236/ CAP 3128 Ethics in Communication
- COMM 4217/5217 Freedom of Speech

Special Education:

- SPED 4180/5180 Interdisciplinary Study of Disability

History:

- HIST 3110 Conflict and Justice in History: (Topic)
- HIST 4170/5170 U.S. Environmental History
- HIST 4260/5260 United States Women's History

Philosophy:

- PHIL 3320 Political Philosophy
- PHIL 3360 Intellectual Vices and Virtues: Theory and Practice

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Philosophy Minor

**Philosophy:**

- PHIL 1040 Justice and the Good Life: Philosophical Perspectives 3

One course in the history of philosophy: 3

- PHIL 2210 Dawn of Western Thought: Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL/RELS 2220 Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages
- PHIL 2230 The Age of Reason: Philosophy in the Renaissance and Enlightenment
- PHIL 2240 The Limits of Reason: Modern Philosophy

**Electives in philosophy (PHIL xxxx):** 12

**Total Hours:** 18

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Religious Studies Minor

Select one of the following: 3

- RELS 1020 Religions of the World
- RELS 1060 American Religious Diversity

**Electives: 15 hours of RELS xxxx courses** 15

**Total Hours:** 18

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Program Certificates

The University of Northern Iowa makes available, in addition to traditional programs, the opportunity for students to earn program certificates. Program certificates provide an alternative to programs leading to a degree, a major, or a minor; they certify that an individual
has completed a program approved by the university. For information on the following program certificates, contact the Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services or the Office of the Registrar, which serves as the centralized registry.

**Religious Literacy Certificate**

The Certificate in Religious Literacy emphasizes the ways that religion interacts with many different areas of social, cultural, and political life, and will be beneficial to those preparing for careers in a wide variety of fields, including--but not limited to--health, education, business, social work, law, politics, criminology, psychology, family services, and communications. Using the American Academy of Religion's guidelines for teaching and learning religious literacy in K-12 schools and in higher education, UNI's Religious Literacy Certificate provides students with content knowledge and transferable skills based in the academic study of religion.

**Required: (Choose 2)**

- RELS 1020 Religions of the World
- RELS 1040 The Power of Myth: (Topic)
- RELS 1060 American Religious Diversity

**Electives: select two of the following**

- RELS 2001 Old Testament and Other Hebrew Scriptures
- RELS 2002 New Testament and Early Christian Writings
- RELS 2600 Religion and the Public Schools
- RELS 3180 Religion and Politics: (Topics)
- RELS 3200 Religion and Law
- RELS 3400 Religion and Race
- RELS 4230/HIST 4250/5250 Religion in America

**Total Hours** 12

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**Youth Work in Religious Settings Certificate**

The Youth Work in Religious Settings Certificate interdisciplinary program is jointly offered by the Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership program within the Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services and the Department of Philosophy and World Religions. The Youth Work in Religious Settings Certification Program prepares students for work in a variety of religious organizations and contexts.

**Required:**

**Philosophy and World Religions:**

- RELS 1020 Religions of the World 3

**Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership:**

- RTNL 2150 Foundations of Youth Work 3
- RTNL 3120 Programming for Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership 3
- RTNL 3340 Prevention & Intervention Programs in Youth Work 3

**Electives: 6 hours of RELS xxxx courses** 6

**Total Hours** 18