

# BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY (PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOCUS)

Students who wish to major in philosophy while exploring issues concerning contemporary ethics and political philosophy may be interested in the bachelor of arts in philosophy, public affairs focus. This degree shares core material with the more traditional BA in philosophy (<https://philosophy.columbian.gwu.edu/ba-philosophy/>), but students also delve into social and political topics including wealth inequality, political correctness, business ethics, and the relationship between technological progress and sustainability.

Visit the program website (<https://philosophy.columbian.gwu.edu/ba-philosophy-public-affairs-focus/>) for more information.

## ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
The George Washington University  
800 21st St NW Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit [undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us](http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us) (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

Program-specific curriculum:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Recommended</b>		
PHIL 1051 or PHIL 1051W	Introduction to Philosophy	
<b>Required</b>		
PHIL 2045	Introduction to Logic (3 credits)	

One course from the following (3 credits):

PHIL 2111 or PHIL 2111W	History of Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 2112	History of Modern Philosophy
Two courses from the following (6 credits):	
PHIL 2131	Ethics: Theory and Applications
PHIL 2132 or PHIL 2132W	Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 2136	Contemporary Issues in Ethics
Four additional philosophy (PHIL) courses numbered 2000 or above (12 credits)	
One of the following options:	
A: Two Proseminar Courses	
PHIL 4198	Proseminar (6 credits)
B: Honors Thesis option (requires departmental approval and a senior thesis)	
PHIL 4198 or PHIL 4198W	Proseminar (3 credits) Proseminar in Philosophy
PHIL 4199	Readings and Research (3 credits)

## GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (<https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/general-education-curriculum-gpac/>) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

**Coursework (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationstext>) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:**

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.

- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/search/?P=UW%201020>) University Writing (4 credits).
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

**Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:**

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience

**Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.**

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements may also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University may count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

## SPECIAL HONORS

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations, in order to be considered for graduation with Special Honors, a student must: have at least a 3.7 grade-point average in the major and a 3.3 average overall; and submit an honors

paper prepared under the supervision of a faculty advisor in the department.

Only if a committee of three faculty members in the department approves the honors paper are Special Honors recommended.

## COMBINED PROGRAM

### Combined program

- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in philosophy (public affairs focus) and Master of Arts in the field of public policy with a concentration in philosophy and social policy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/philosophy/combined-ba-public-affairs-option-ma-public-policy-concentration-philosophy-social-policy/>)