

From: [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)
To: [Smith, Randy](#); [Reed, Katie](#)
Cc: [Martin, Andrew](#); [Nagar, Ila](#)
Subject: Informational item--Update Philosophy major
Date: Friday, September 27, 2024 2:22:56 PM
Attachments: [Update Philosophy Major.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Dear Randy and Katie,

Please find attached an informational item to share at an upcoming CAA meeting.

Professor Ila Nagar, Chair of ASCC, shared the proposed change as an informational item at the ASC Curriculum Committee meeting on Friday, August 30. The departmental contact for this informational item is Professor Lisa Shabel.

Best regards,
Bernadette



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Bernadette Vankeerbergen, Ph.D.

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July 15, 2024

Assistant Dean, Curriculum
College of Arts and Sciences
114F University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall.
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Bernadette,

I write to inform you that the Department of Philosophy has recently voted to amend the “prerequisite” to our Major. We would like to change the prerequisite from Symbolic Logic (Philosophy 2500) to Introduction to Logic (Philosophy 1500) OR Introduction to Logic and Legal Reasoning (Philosophy 1501) OR Symbolic Logic (Philosophy 2500).

The current major program requirements for the BA in Philosophy are:

1. Philosophy 2500 (prerequisite)
2. Philosophy 3000
3. Two of: Philosophy 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3261
4. Two of: Philosophy 3300, 3530, 3600, 3650, 3700, 3750, 3800, 3810
5. Five Philosophy electives
 - a. One at 2000 level or higher
 - b. Two at 3000 level or higher
 - c. Two at 5000 level or higher

All courses are 3 credits. Total credits = 33 (including prerequisite)

The revised major program requirements for the BA in Philosophy will be:

1. Philosophy 1500, 1501, or 2500 (prerequisite)
2. Philosophy 3000
3. Two of: Philosophy 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3261
4. Two of: Philosophy 3300, 3530, 3600, 3650, 3700, 3750, 3800, 3810
5. Five Philosophy electives
 - a. One at 2000 level or higher
 - b. Two at 3000 level or higher
 - c. Two at 5000 level or higher

All courses are 3 credits. Total credits = 33 (including prerequisite)

This change will make our major more accessible to a larger population of undergraduates in several ways. Students who prefer to begin their studies at the 1000 level will now be able to count a first course toward the major requirements; students who prefer to learn logic non-symbolically will be accommodated; and, with three courses to choose from, it will be easier for students to schedule their first course in the major. Moreover, we believe that students will be as well-prepared for the major as

before; there is increasing evidence that studying *symbolic* logic is not a necessary condition on successful philosophical reasoning, and we are following the lead of many peer institutions who have already made such a modification to their philosophy programs.

Please let me know when this change has been approved and I will follow up with the Registrar to make sure that the Degree Audit is programmed accordingly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Shabel".

Lisa Shabel
Director of Undergraduate Studies and
Associate Professor of Philosophy