

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor of Science in Philosophy (Course 24-1)

This major (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/philosophy-course-24-1>) is designed to provide familiarity with the history and current status of the main problems in epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics; mastery of some of the technical skills requisite for advanced work in philosophy; facility at independent philosophical study; and work at an advanced level in an allied field. A relatively large amount of unrestricted elective time is available so that students can devise programs suited to individual needs and interests.

Bachelor of Science in Linguistics and Philosophy (Course 24-2)

This major, also known as the Program in Language and Mind, aims to provide students with a working knowledge of a variety of issues that currently occupy the intersection of philosophy, linguistics, and cognitive science. Central among these topics are the nature of language, of those mental representations that we call "knowledge" and "belief," and of the innate basis for the acquisition of certain types of knowledge (especially linguistic knowledge). Students have the option of pursuing either a philosophy track (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/linguistics-philosophy-course-24-2/#philosophytext>) or a linguistics track (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/linguistics-philosophy-course-24-2/#linguisticstext>). Both require a core set of subjects drawn from both fields and are designed to teach students the central facts and issues in the study of language and the representation of knowledge. Each track requires, in addition, a set of subjects drawn primarily from its discipline and is designed to prepare students for graduate study either in philosophy/cognitive science or in linguistics. A coherent program of three restricted electives (drawn from one or two of the following three areas: linguistics, philosophy, or a related area) rounds out the major.

Note that students are prohibited from majoring in both 24-1 and 24-2.

Minor in Philosophy

The goal of the Minor in Philosophy is to introduce students to the methods of analytic philosophy and then to have them study a broad range of philosophers and philosophical issues at a more sophisticated level, culminating in an advanced seminar.

The minor consists of six subjects arranged into three levels of study as follows:

Tier I		
Select 1-2 introductory philosophy subject numbered 24.00 - 24.09 ¹		12
Select one of the following logic subjects: ²		12
24.118	Paradox and Infinity	
24.141	Logic I	
24.242	Logic II	
24.243	Classical Set Theory	
24.244	Modal Logic	
24.245	Theory of Models	
Tier II		
Select 2-3 philosophy subjects numbered at the 100 or 200 level, approved by the minor advisor		36
Tier III		
24.260	Topics in Philosophy	12
Total Units		72

¹ Students may substitute one appropriate philosophy concourse subject with the permission of the minor advisor.

² Students may take a logic subject offered by another department (e.g., Mathematics) with the permission of the minor advisor.

Minor in Linguistics

The Minor in Linguistics consists of six subjects arranged in three levels of study, intended to provide students with breadth in the field of theoretical linguistics as a whole. The three levels are as follows:

Tier I		
24.900	Introduction to Linguistics ¹	12
Tier II		
24.901	Language and Its Structure I: Phonology	12
24.902	Language and Its Structure II: Syntax	12
24.903	Language and Its Structure III: Semantics and Pragmatics	12
Tier III		
Select two of the following:		24
24.904	Language Acquisition	
24.905[J]	Laboratory in Psycholinguistics	
24.906[J]	The Linguistic Study of Bilingualism	
24.909	Field Methods in Linguistics	
24.910	Advanced Topics in Linguistic Analysis	
24.914	Language Variation and Change	
24.915	Linguistic Phonetics	
Total Units		72

¹ 24.9000 How Language Works is also an acceptable option.