PHILOSOPHY (BA)

Chair: Michael Forest, PhD

Introduction

Philosophy probes into some of the deepest questions of human life. What is the nature of reality? What is truth? What is happiness? What is justice? The philosophy curriculum explores these—and many other—fundamental questions and helps students to formulate reasonable answers to these questions.

A Cornerstone of Jesuit Education

Philosophy has been a cornerstone of Jesuit education since the founding of the first Jesuit colleges and universities in 17th century Europe. Educators at Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States continue to recognize the special province of philosophy to: Embrace our human powers to think abstractly and thus to cultivate models of mental discipline and to broaden our capacities to understand and to enjoy living. Raise critical questions and use reasoned argumentation to develop normative standards for guiding a person’s relationship to his/her community. Promote reasoning about human nature and human values to help provide bridges between religious belief and contemporary intellectual directions. Value integrity, commitment to truth, excellence and understanding with an aim to enhance our expressive powers, our knowledge, foresight and sense of direction. Philosophy is an especially ennobling discipline since it elevates what is common in being human while also nurturing individuality and self-esteem. Studying philosophy helps to cultivate responsible citizenship by promoting thoughtful reflection on contemporary cultural and intellectual currents, by critically assessing the discourse of public officials, and by identifying unfounded assertions and biased opinions with an aim to replace them with responsibly reasoned argumentation. Consequently, philosophy holds a special place in a liberal arts curriculum at a Jesuit college or university just in its capacity to objectify the human condition and to contribute to our becoming more fully human.

Department Mission

To fulfill its Ignatian mission, the Philosophy faculty provides programs of instruction to cultivate an abiding sense of responsibility as men and women for and with others by focusing on the service of faith and the promotion of justice. The faculty considers it crucially important that a good education addressing such concerns has a firm foundation in the history of philosophy and its principal branches, and the issues of moral philosophy, together with special attention to examining argumentation. Equally important is the Philosophy faculty’s interest cultivating discussion about the notions of the common good and social justice.

Qualifications

Students must maintain an overall 2.0 GPA in their undergraduate studies and a 2.0 average in their philosophy program to graduate with a degree in Philosophy.

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

Curricular Components of a Philosophy Major

Students desiring to major in philosophy might have scholarly interests to pursue graduate study in philosophy or to acquire competence in philosophy for a diversity of reasons including advanced study in other disciplines. To help students satisfy these interests, the Philosophy faculty offers a major program that maintains intellectual and academic rigor while promoting the mission to educate for others with attention to the principle of cura personalis. The curriculum combines a historical, a topic, and a fields approach to construct a unified program of instruction. Since our mission emphasizes concern with critical examination of values and principles of ethics and justice, the major curriculum requires one course in study and analysis of argumentation and two courses in the study of ethics, one of which is theoretical.

Supplemental Study

The Philosophy faculty encourages each philosophy major to supplement his/her course of study by taking advantage of the large number of free electives available. We recommend that students advance their study of classical and modern languages, and to complement their history of philosophy sequence with appropriate history courses. There is a wide array of fine liberal arts courses in the various departments of the College of Arts and Sciences. Philosophy requires a breadth of knowledge in many disciplines.

Double Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a double major. This decision may be based on career goals, planned graduate studies, and/or other student interests. Before a student declares a double major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. In order to declare a double major, the student must complete the Major/Minor Declaration form. This form will be submitted electronically and reviewed and approved by each department chairperson as well as the appropriate associate dean.

Per college policy, each additional major requires a minimum of 15 credits that do not apply to the student’s first or subsequent major. Some double major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in other cases additional course work may be required. Please note that students will receive only one degree, regardless of the number of majors they complete. Both (all) majors appear on a student’s transcript.

Minors in Other Disciplines

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. To receive a minor, the student must complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework distinct from their other credentials (i.e., majors, other minors). The complete list of minors is available on the Canisius website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/undergraduate/?type%5B%5D=17) and in the catalog (https://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/minors/) and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.
Co-Curricular Activities
The Philosophy faculty encourages majors and minors to participate in the on-going activities of the Department. Students are invited to the regular colloquia. Students are invited to make presentations to try out the results of their research. In addition there are the Philosophy Club and the Philosophy Honors Society, Phi Sigma Tau.

Curriculum
An Ignatian Foundation
All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/core-curriculum/) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/all-college-honors-program/). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as "general education" requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes; they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives
Students may graduate with a bachelor's degree with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Canisius Core Curriculum or All-College Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum number of credits required for graduation. The number of credits required to complete a bachelor's degree may vary depending on the student's major(s) and minor(s).

Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHI 225</td>
<td>Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 300</td>
<td>History of Philosophy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 310</td>
<td>History of Philosophy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical Theory - Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 240</td>
<td>Justice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 241</td>
<td>Ethics: Traditions in Moral Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 252</td>
<td>Happiness, Virtue and the Good Life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 261</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Ethics - Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 242</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 243</td>
<td>Bio-Medical Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 244</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 245</td>
<td>Animal Ethics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 246</td>
<td>Ethics of Technology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 247</td>
<td>Food and Agricultural Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy Elective</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy Elective at the 400 level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who intend to study philosophy in graduate school are strongly encouraged to take PHI 451.

Roadmap
Recommended Semester Schedule for Major Course Requirements
The following four-year schedule maps out a course of study that a philosophy major may pursue. However, this schedule is provided only to suggest one way among many that a student might design his/her program of undergraduate philosophy study.

Freshman
Fall
PHI 101
Sophomore
Fall
PHI 225
PHI Ethics Theory
Junior
Fall
PHI 300
PHI Elective
Senior
Spring
PHI 400 Elective

Learning Goals & Objectives
Student Learning Goal 1
Majors will acquire a broad knowledge of major figures, branches, and terminologies in Western philosophy.
- Objective A: Demonstrate knowledge of major figures in Western Philosophy.
- Objective B: Demonstrate knowledge of major branches in Western Philosophy.
- Objective C: Demonstrate knowledge of terminology particular to a branch or tradition within philosophy.

Student Learning Goal 2
Majors will develop a capacity for communicating philosophical ideas and arguments.
- Objective A: Write cogent prose to communicate philosophical ideas effectively.
- Objective B: Construct philosophical arguments.

Student Learning Goal 3
Majors will develop a capacity for thinking critically and for effectively assessing arguments.
- Objective A: Analyze arguments in philosophical discourse.
- Objective B: Identify underlying presuppositions of a philosopher’s argumentative discourse.
- Objective C: Raise questions and frame philosophical problems introduced by texts.
**Student Learning Goal 4**

**Majors will become information literate as this applies to philosophical study and research.**

- **Objective A:** Cite properly and work effectively with both primary and secondary sources.

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## Minor

### Curriculum Requirements for a Philosophy Minor

A minor in philosophy consists of five (5) courses beyond PHI 101 that might complement another major or provide personal intellectual satisfaction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHI 300</td>
<td>History of Philosophy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 310</td>
<td>History of Philosophy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minors are an important part of the undergraduate curriculum. If students declare a minor by sophomore year, they can usually complete it in a timely manner. Students should work with their advisor to determine if it is possible that the minor can be completed by graduation.

To receive a minor, a student must complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework distinct from their major(s) and from other minors, and students must complete more than 50% of the coursework required for the minor at Canisius. Please note that “ancillary/supporting” courses required for a major may still count as distinct courses as long as the remaining coursework still meets the 30 credit-hours required for a major. For more information about minor policies, please see the Declaring Majors and Minors (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduateacademics/student-recordsdeclaring-majors-minors/) page in the catalog.

### Courses

**PHI 101 Introduction to Philosophy** 3 Credits
Core Curriculum Foundation Course. A study of the major eras in the history of philosophy: Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and Contemporary and also of principal branches in philosophy: Aesthetics, Epistemology, Theories of Ethics, Logic, Metaphysics, and Theories of Justice. Students study the Catholic/Jesuit tradition and become able to identify the elements of rational argumentation. PHI 101 is a prerequisite for PHI 200 courses.

**PHI 211 Philosophy of Religion** 3 Credits
A study of principal contemporary and classical discussions about the existence and nature of God, God’s relationship to the world, the individual and society.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/HON 110.
Fulfills College Core: Field 2 (Philosophy), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

**PHI 225 Logic** 3 Credits
An introductory study of logic treating such topics as: deduction, techniques for evaluating reasoning, language and meaning, various formal and informal fallacies, and the notion of implication.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Fulfills College Core: Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: once a year.

**PHI 240 Justice** 3 Credits
A study of enduring questions such as: What does it take to be a just person and to create a just society? Includes investigations of (1) theories of justice and (2) problems of justice relating to injustice and oppression due to race, class, species, and gender.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Fulfills College Core: Field 2 (Philosophy), Justice
Offered: once a year.

**PHI 241 Ethics: Traditions in Moral Reasoning** 3 Credits
A survey of principal traditions in moral reasoning with attention to moral principles inclusive of utility, deontology and virtue, and their applications to contemporary social realities.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: once a year.

**PHI 242 Ethical Issues in Business** 3 Credits
A study of important concerns in business and market realities with special concern to applying moral principles in decision making.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: every fall & spring.

**PHI 243 Bio-Medical Ethics** 3 Credits
A study of important moral issues in relation to current concerns in medicine, medical technology, and the life sciences.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: once a year.

**PHI 244 Environmental Ethics** 3 Credits
A study of classical and contemporary moral theories concerning the relationship of human beings to the manifold of their natural surroundings.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: occasionally.

**PHI 245 Animal Ethics** 3 Credits
What do we mean by classifying together all non-human animals as ‘animals’? This course critically examines the traditional notion that animals are commodities or resources for human use. It questions whether all sentient beings have intrinsic value and should be respected and what form that ‘respect’ should take.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: every fall & spring.

**PHI 246 Ethics of Technology** 3 Credits
A study of how prominent technologies such as television, cellular phones, and medical breakthroughs affect individual persons and our society, and in what ways technological innovations make us better or worse.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: every fall & spring.

**PHI 247 Food and Agricultural Ethics** 3 Credits
A study of the moral implications of the current food system in connection with the production, distribution, and consumption of food and aims to examine what might constitute a reasonable position regarding the ethics of what we eat and what each of us can do to help bring about a more just food system.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Fulfills College Core: Ethics, Field 2 (Philosophy)
Offered: occasionally.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit(s)</th>
<th>Prerequisite(s)</th>
<th>Fulfills Core(s)</th>
<th>Offered(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHI 252</td>
<td>Happiness, Virtue and the Good Life</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Field 2 (Philosophy)</td>
<td>occasionally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 261</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: Law</td>
<td>every fall &amp; spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 264</td>
<td>Justice &amp; the Environment: The Problem of Climate Change</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: Environment</td>
<td>every fall &amp; spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 271</td>
<td>Philosophy of Human Rights</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: Human Rights</td>
<td>occasionally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 272</td>
<td>Gender and Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: Gender</td>
<td>every fall &amp; spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 273</td>
<td>Race and Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: Race</td>
<td>once a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 274</td>
<td>Social and Political Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: Politics</td>
<td>occasionally</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 275</td>
<td>Global Feminisms</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: Feminism</td>
<td>occasionally</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 276</td>
<td>History of Philosophy I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: History</td>
<td>once a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 277</td>
<td>History of Philosophy II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td>Fulfills College Core: History</td>
<td>every spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 278</td>
<td>Systematic Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHI 101 or HON 102/110</td>
<td></td>
<td>fall of odd-numbered years</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PHI 398 The City and the Good Life 3 Credits
This course examines how the ways we build cities and other places can influence the quality of our lives. What kinds of cities can best promote justice and enable human flourishing?
Restriction: seniors only. Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: Occasionally.

PHI 399 Ethics, Justice, & the Problem of Poverty 3 Credits
This is a Core Capstone course; students from all majors are welcome. The first half of the course focuses on ethics, justice, and diversity. The second half of the course is focused on economics and global awareness vis-à-vis the problem of poverty.
Prerequisite: PHI 101.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone

PHI 401 Topics in Philosophy 3 Credits
A seminar style course offered by faculty in the Department of Philosophy on a rotating basis and focusing on a different topic each time it is offered. Check with the department to find out what will be offered in any given academic year.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 or HON 102/110.
Offered: every spring.

PHI 451 Senior Thesis 3 Credits
Philosophy majors who plan to attend graduate school in philosophy should complete a senior thesis. This is a culminating experience in which a student expresses mature habits of self-directed study and critical analysis, with an ability to integrate knowledge beyond the expectations of a seminar paper. A senior thesis addresses a select philosophic topic and is especially concerned with philosophic argumentation. A philosophy major who writes a senior thesis demonstrates ability to exercise appropriate research methods, to provide critical assessment of issues, to assess theoretical presuppositions underlying a discourse and to advance well-constructed argumentation. A senior thesis ought to exhibit the values of the department mission.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 & at least two 300-level philosophy courses.
Offered: every fall.

PHI 499 Independent Study 1-3 Credits
A tutorial style course on a topic approved by the department and agreed upon between the student and a professor. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: PHI 101 & at least two 300-level philosophy courses.

3+3 Accelerated BA/BS-JD Program
Director: Robert Klump (klumpr@canisius.edu), Esq. at 716.888.2884

The 3+3 Accelerated BA/BS-JD program (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/pre-law/33-accelerated-ba-or-bs-plus-jd/) through the University at Buffalo School of Law (https://www.law.buffalo.edu/admissions/3-plus-3.html) is open to a variety of majors. By participating, you can:

• Complete your undergraduate education and law degree in less time (and for less cost) than the 7 years typically required
• Become fully eligible for scholarships and grants offered to qualified incoming students at the University at Buffalo School of Law
• Upon successful completion of the first-year curriculum at UB Law School, a student’s credits for the year will be transferred to Canisius to complete his or her bachelor’s degree which will then be conferred by Canisius.

Eligibility
This unique program is open to pre-law students who:

• Take the LSAT or GRE no later than January of their junior year*
• Apply to the UB School of Law no later than February 1 of their junior year
• Complete all academic requirements toward their major by the end of their junior year
• Maintain a cumulative GPA at Canisius of 3.5 or higher

*The LSAT score must be at or above the median LSAT score for the UB School of Law’s previous year’s enrolled class or the GRE score must be at or above the 70th percentile for Verbal Reasoning and the 40th percentile for Quantitative Reasoning.

For more information, contact the Raichle Center director.

3+3 Philosophy BA/JD Roadmap

Freshman
Fall
ENG 111
RST 101
Attribute: Global Awareness
PHI 101
Elective
Sophomore
Fall
Field 1: Religious Studies and Theology
Attribute: Justice
Skills: Advanced Writing-Intensive
PHI Ethics Theory
PHI Elective
Junior
Fall
Field 3: Literature and Arts
Field 5: Social Sciences
Skills: Oral Communication
PHI 300
PHI Elective
PHI 390
Capstone
Senior

### Fall

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1st year JD courses taken at UB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAW 509: Torts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 501: Civil Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 503: Contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 515: Legal Analysis, Writing and Research I</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st year JD courses taken at UB</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAW 507: Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 505: Criminal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 511: Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 515: Legal Analysis, Writing and Research II</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ATTRIBUTES** - Can be fulfilled using a variety of courses including Field of Knowledge courses and electives with attribute designation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Justice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethics*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Awareness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Writing Intensive** - Must be at the 200-level or above

| Oral Communication Skills |

* Ethics is required of all students

**Note:** All students must complete a total of 60 hours of Arts and Science courses. We strongly recommend that all students run a Griff Audit to check for this and any other additional requirements.