PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS MAJOR

Our Website (https://ppe.liberalarts.vt.edu/)

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The Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) oversees two highly interdisciplinary, research-driven undergraduate degree programs, a major and minor in PPE. The degree programs provide students with the tools, methods, and knowledge to develop comprehensive solutions to complex interdisciplinary decision-making problems, solutions that are not only economically sound, but also socially, ethically, and politically informed. The degree programs prepare students to become leaders in the fast-changing and complex social world of the 21st century.

Due to its analytical rigor, combination of normative and empirical analyses, and emphasis on the development of transferable skills, PPE prepares students for a wide variety of careers in the private and public sectors. PPE graduates have successful careers in management, marketing, consulting, industry, investment banking, finance, business administration, law, journalism, government, public administration, public policy, think tanks, health care, international affairs, international development, and non-profit organizations. In addition, PPE prepares students exceptionally well for academic programs, especially for law school, medical school, business school, and masters and doctoral programs in philosophy, political science, and economics, as well as related social sciences.

To enrich its undergraduate curriculum and allow students to develop professional skills, the Kellogg Center organizes research-focused events (https://ppe.liberalarts.vt.edu/events/), in particular a research speaker series, research fellow panels, conferences, workshops, and public lectures. In addition, it offers student-centered events and activities (https://ppe.liberalarts.vt.edu/student-involvement/), such as an undergraduate journal, reading groups, discussion colloquia, and a PPE Club. The Center's programming fosters dialogue among faculty, students, and the public and supports the integration of research and teaching.

Degree Requirements

The graduation requirements in effect during the academic year of admission to Virginia Tech apply. Requirements for graduation are listed on checksheets. Students must satisfactorily complete all requirements and university obligations for degree completion. The university reserves the right to modify requirements in a degree program.

Please visit the University Registrar's website at https://www.registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/checksheets.html for degree requirements.

Major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

The PPE major allows students to study systematically some of the most important social, ethical, economic, and political problems that our contemporary societies face. It offers a highly interdisciplinary curriculum (45 credit hours) with distinct learning outcomes centered on an undergraduate research project. The central integration courses of the degree are the PPE Gateway Course and the PPE Capstone Course. The former integrates the quantitative techniques, conceptual tools, and core principles of philosophy, political science, and economics. The latter allows students to work on an advanced research project of their choice at the intersection of philosophy, politics, and economics and its application to the real world.

Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

The PPE minor trains students to apply knowledge in the humanities and social sciences to related fields, and thus to examine the world from multiple perspectives and integrate knowledge across disciplines. The PPE minor requires 18 credit hours to be obtained from the PPE Gateway Course, the PPE Capstone Course, and four elective courses that include one applied area course. The PPE minor is an approved as a Pathways minor (https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors/showcase/ppe.html) at Virginia Tech. Relatedly, it is worth stressing that Virginia Tech is currently the only top engineering school that integrates engineering courses into its PPE curriculum. The PPE minor allows engineering students to create synergies between their engineering studies (https://enge.vt.edu/undergraduate/explore_engineering.html) and the humanities and social sciences.

Study Abroad

The Kellogg Center encourages students to participate in study abroad programs as part of their educational experience. PPE students have recently studied in continental Europe and the U.K., among other places. In general, if coordinated in advance, coursework completed abroad can count towards the PPE major and PPE minor.

Internships

Internships and related paraprofessional activities can serve as valuable opportunities for students to apply and further engage with the skills and concepts they acquire in the classroom. They also serve as means to gain valuable professional experience, which may be particularly useful to students when pursuing career opportunities or graduate study. Please work closely with your advisor to discuss possibilities.

The Kellogg Center currently offers students the possibility to receive credit for internships, field studies, and practicums in the context of the PPE 4964 Field Work/Practicum course. Before considering this option, students should have completed PPE 2894 PPE Gateway Course. For more information concerning experiential learning opportunities offered by the Kellogg Center, please reach out to the internship coordinator Holly Belcher (hollymb2@vt.edu).

Advising

The Kellogg Center's faculty and staff work closely with students to provide a personalized learning experience. However, before you speak with PPE advising personnel, please read carefully the PPE Student Handbook (https://ppe.liberalarts.vt.edu/student-handbook/) that provides a detailed overview of the PPE degree programs and other relevant student information, including information about degree requirements, study abroad, internships, PPE events, careers and placement, and professional opportunities.

For **all PPE advising** matters, including setting up an advising appointment, please contact: Heath Furrow (hafurrow@vt.edu)

For **general questions** concerning the PPE undergraduate degree programs, please contact Holly Belcher (hollymb2@vt.edu).

Code	Title	Credits
Degree Core Requirements		
A. History of Philosophy		
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 2115	Ancient Through Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 2116	Ancient Through Medieval Philosophy	
PHIL 2125	History of Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 2126	History of Modern Philosophy	
B. Logic		
PHIL 3505	Modern Logic and Its Development	3
C. Epistemology and Metaphysics		
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 1204	Knowledge and Reality	
PHIL 4204	Philosophy of Mind (3 Philosophy credits required)	
PHIL 4214	Metaphysics (3 Philosophy credits required)	
PHIL 4224	Epistemology (3 Philosophy credits required)	
PHIL 4604	Philosophy of Biology	
PHIL 4614	Philosophy of Science (3 Philosophy credits required)	
D. Value Theory		
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL 1304	Morality and Justice	
PHIL 2304	Global Ethics	
PHIL 2314	Philosophy of Sex, Gender, and Race	
PSCI/PHIL 3015	Political Theory	
PSCI/PHIL/PPE 3016	Political Theory	
PHIL 3334	Ethical Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence	
PHIL/PPE 3314	Ethical Theory (3 Philosophy credits required)	
PHIL 3414	Aesthetics	
PHIL 4304	Political Philosophy (3 Philosophy credits required)	
or PPE 4304	Political Philosophy	
Subtotal		21
Major Requirements		
A. Integration		
PPE 2894	PPE Gateway Course	3
PPE 4884	PPE Capstone Course	3
B. Concentration in Political Science and Economics		
Select 18 credit hours, 9 credit hours from each area from the list below [1]		18
C. Free Electives		
Select 30 credits		30
Subtotal		54
Pathways to General Education		
Pathways Concept 1 - Discourse		
Select 9 hours in Pathways Concept 1 - Discourse		9
Pathways Concept 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities		
Select 6 hours in Pathway 2 (https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G02)		6
Pathways Concept 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences		
Select 6 hours in Pathway 3 (https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G03)		6
Pathways Concept 4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences		
Select 6 hours in Pathway 4 (https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G04)		6
Pathways Concept 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking		
Select 9 hours in Pathways Concept 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking		9
Pathways Concept 6 - Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts		
Select 6 hours in Pathways Concept 6 - Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts		6
Pathways Concept 7 - Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States		
Select 3 hours in Pathway 7 (https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G07)		3
Integrative Learning Outcomes		
Ethical Reasoning (This learning outcome can be combined with other Pathways courses and requires no additional credit hours)		
Intercultural and Global Awareness (This learning outcome can be combined with other Pathways courses and requires no additional credit hours)		
Subtotal		45
Total Credits		**120**

[1] Students must take at least five courses at the 3000-4000 level from the selection of “PPE Major Courses”.

Concentration in Political Science and Economics

(18 credit hours, 9 credit hours from each area)

Code	Title	Credits
Political Science		
PSCI 1014	Introduction to United States Government and Politics	3
or PSCI 1014H	Honors Introduction to United States Government and Politics	
or PSCI 2014	Introduction to Political Theory	
PSCI 2024	Research Methods in Political Science	3
PSCI 2064	The Global Economy and World Politics	3
PSCI 3015	Political Theory	3
PSCI 3016	Political Theory	3
PSCI 3144	Global Governance and Public Policy	3
PSCI 3154	Topics in Global Public Policies	3
PSCI 3165	Global Economic Governance and Policy	3
PSCI 3166	Global Economic Governance and Policy	3
PSCI 3175	Global Development	3
PSCI 3176	Global Development	3
PSCI 3234	Voting and Elections	3
PSCI 3334	Judicial Process	3

PSCI 3344	Global Environmental Issues: Interdisciplinary Perspectives	3
PSCI 3354	Constitutional Law: Structures and Relationships	3
PSCI 3364	Constitutional Law: Civil and Political Rights	3
PSCI 3554	Comparative Political Economy	3
PSCI 3634	Human Rights: Global Issues	3
PSCI 3724	Poverty and Welfare Policy	3
PSCI 3744	Public Policy Analysis	3
PSCI 3764	Contemporary Democratic Theory	3
PSCI 3774	Marxian Political Analysis	3
PSCI 4054	Seminar in Global Political Economy	3
PSCI 4064	Seminar in Global Development	3
PSCI 4214	Senior Seminar in Political Behavior	3
PSCI 4314	Senior Seminar in Political Institutions	3
PSCI 4324	Senior Seminar in Constitutional Law	3
PSCI 4714	Senior Seminar in Policy Analysis	3
PSCI 4724	Senior Seminar in Political Theory	3
Economics		
ECON 2005	Principles of Economics (micro)	3
or ECON 2025H	Honors Principles of Economics	
ECON 2006	Principles of Economics (macro)	3
or ECON 2026H	Honors Principles of Economics	
ECON 3004	Contemporary Economic Issues	3
ECON 3024	Economic Justice	3
ECON 3034	Economics of Poverty and Discrimination	3
ECON 3104	Microeconomic Theory	3
ECON 3134	Choice and Behavior	3
ECON 3144	Economics of Regulation	3
ECON 3204	Macroeconomic Theory	3
ECON 3214	Money and Banking	3
ECON 4014	Environmental Economics	3
ECON 4044	Public Economics	3
ECON 4054	Public Finance	3
ECON 4074	Labor Economics	3
ECON 4124	Growth and Development	3
AAEC 4135	International Economics	3
ECON 4214	Economics of Health Care	3
ECON 4424	The Theory of Games and Economic Behavior	3
ECON 4434	Experimental Economics	3
ECON 4454	Neuroeconomics	3
ECON 4894	Law and Economics	3

General PPE Major Requirements and Guidelines

1. Departmental prerequisites and corequisites for all courses must be satisfied. Please consult the University Catalog for the latest statement of these requirements.
2. In accordance with University Guidelines, courses satisfying degree core requirements may not be double counted to satisfy other areas of degree (e.g. CLE, Pathways, etc.).
3. The PPE PPE 2894 PPE Gateway Course must be taken before the PPE 4884 PPE Capstone Course.
4. No more than 50% of the graded course credits required for the PPE Major may be double-counted by a student also enrolled in a Philosophy, Political Science, or Economics major.
5. All courses to fulfill the “PPE Major Requirements” must be taken A/F and be completed with a minimum GPA of 2.0. Students must also maintain an overall GPA of 2.0.
6. Foreign language requirement: Students who did not successfully complete at least two years of a single foreign, classical, or sign language during high school must successfully complete six semester hours of a single foreign, classical, or sign language at the college level. Courses taken to meet this requirement do not count toward the hours required for graduation. Please consult the Undergraduate Catalog for details.
7. Eligibility for continued enrollment: Checksheet requirements adhere to the “Satisfactory Progress” toward degree policy of the university (Policy 91).
8. A minimum of 120 semester credit hours is required for graduation.