

Philosophy: Pre-Law

“Our Pre-law concentration in Philosophy is a great option to consider if you’re thinking about Law



School. Philosophy is the best preparation for Law School, the most popular major from the point of view of Law School Admissions; this is because it emphasizes the analysis and construction of arguments, the history of ideas, and the ability to theorize and write clearly. Western notions of law originate with Solon in ancient Athens and with the Romans, but law has a lot to do with religion as well, so the Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion is a natural place for a focus on law-related studies. The Department sponsors the UMW Mock Trial Team, which is coached by a local attorney and supported by an Advisory Board made up of judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Internships with the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office and Rappahannock Legal Services provide excellent first-hand experience opportunities for students. PHIL 110 (Introduction to Law and Legal Writing) offers students a chance to see what the first year of Law School would be like, and to begin developing critical writing skills. We also offer a minor in Practical Ethics, including courses in Environmental as well as Medical Ethics.”

Department of Classics, Philosophy, & Religion

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Students interested in a philosophy: pre-law major should consider enrolling in **PHIL 110**, **PHIL 101**, **PHIL 151** and/or **PHIL 201** in their first semester. **PHIL 101** is not a requirement for the major, but it is a good introduction to academic philosophy, offering a historical overview. **PHIL 151** and **201** are required for the pre-law concentration, as is successful completion of LATN 202 or higher.

Below please find some examples of first semester schedules for a philosophy: pre-law major. There are many variations of a first semester schedule; the examples are just meant to help you see that there are many ways to reach the same goals.

Example 1:

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. PHIL 151B - Introductory Logic (3)	Major, QR
2. PHIL 110 – Introduction to Law and Legal Writing (3)	Major elective
3. Course in a Natural Science (your choice) (4)	NS
4. LATN 101** - Elementary Latin (3)	Language
5. FSEM (your choice) (3)	FSEM

Example 2:

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. SOCG 105 - The Social World (3)	HES
2. PHIL 110 – Intro to Law and Legal Writing (3)	Major Elective
3. PHIL 101 - Intro to Philosophy (3)	HES
4. COMM 205 - Public Speaking (3)	Elective , SI*
5. FSEM (your choice) (3)	FSEM

Example 3: Athletes for varsity sports must register for the 400-level course of the sport. Practice times for varsity sports can vary, but generally speaking, athletes should allow for enough time to get to and from practice on weekdays from 3 - 6 p.m. Please check with the individual coach for your sport to verify specific practice times each semester.

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. PHIL 160 - Introduction to Ethics (3)	Major, HES
2. FSEM (your choice) (3)	FSEM
3. LATN 101** - Elementary Latin (3)	Language
4. PHIL 110 – Intro to Law & Legal Writing (3)	Major Elective
5. PHYD (your sport) (1)	Elective

**Please note that not all sections of a course may have the Speaking Intensive (SI) or Writing Intensive (WI) attributes. These designations for a course are dependent on instructor and semester, and are listed in the Banner description for the semester in which you are registering.*

***This particular course is in a discipline that allows students with demonstrated competence upon admission to UMW (such as AP/IB credit, dual enrollment, etc.) to begin courses at a higher level. Talk to your Student Success Coordinator if you believe you should start at a higher level.*