

MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS (PPE)

4-Year Plan (Roadmap), starting with the Academic Catalog 2025-2026

■ PPE Foundation & Methods Courses
 ■ PPE Integration Courses
 ■ PPE Focus Area Courses (based on research interests)

FALL SEMESTER FRESHMAN YEAR		CREDITS	SPRING SEMESTER FRESHMAN YEAR		CREDITS
■ PPE 1004 First-Year Experience Course (Pathways 2 and Pathways 7 approved)		3	■ PSCI 1014 or PSCI 1014H or PSCI 2024 or PPE 2024 (Focus Area Course Pathways 3 approved)		3
■ PHIL 1304 (No Pathways credit)		3	■ PHIL 1204 (No Pathways credit)		3
■ ECON 2005 or 2025H (Focus Area Course Pathways 3 approved)		3	ENGL 1106 (Pathways 1f: Foundational Discourse) or equivalent course		3
ENGL 1105 (Pathways 1f: Foundational Discourse) or equivalent course		3	Pathways 4: Reasoning in the Natural Sciences		3
Pathways 6a: Critique and Practice in the Arts		3	Pathways 5f: Foundational Quantitative and Computational Thinking (MATH 1014 or MATH 1025)		3
TOTAL		15	TOTAL		15

FALL SEMESTER SOPHOMORE YEAR		CREDITS	SPRING SEMESTER SOPHOMORE YEAR		CREDITS
■ PPE 2894 (Pathways 2: Critical Thinking in the Humanities). Can also be taken in the spring semester.		3	■ PHIL 3505 (No Pathways credit)		3
■ PHIL 2125 (No Pathways credit). Suggested.		3	■ PHIL 2126 (No Pathways credit). Suggested.		3
Pathways 5f: Foundational Quantitative and Computational Thinking (PHIL 1504)		3	■ PPE 4304 or PPE 3016 or PPE 3314 (No Pathways credit)		3
Pathways 4: Reasoning in the Natural Sciences		3	Pathways 5a: Advanced Quantitative and Computational Thinking		3
■ Focus Area Course		3	Pathways 6d: Critique and Practice in the Arts		3
TOTAL		15	TOTAL		15

FALL SEMESTER JUNIOR YEAR		CREDITS	SPRING SEMESTER JUNIOR YEAR		CREDITS
■ PPE 3884 (Pathways 3 approved)		3	■ PHIL 4224 or PHIL 4614 (No Pathways credit)		3
■ Focus Area Course		3	■ Focus Area Course (Consider taking PPE 4964 and/or a Study Abroad Experience paired with PPE 3900)		3
Free Elective		3	Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3	Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3	Free Elective		3
TOTAL		15	TOTAL		15

FALL SEMESTER SENIOR YEAR		CREDITS	SPRING SEMESTER SENIOR YEAR		CREDITS
■ Focus Area Course		3	■ PPE 4884 (Pathways 1a approved). Consider taking in the fall semester.		3
Free Elective		3	Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3	Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3	Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3	Free Elective		3
TOTAL		15	TOTAL		15

TOTAL FOR DEGREE 120

The official degree requirements for the PPE major are available [here](#) and updated annually.

PPE MAJOR FOCUS AREAS

Choose one Focus Area by taking at least five courses that fall under the area (further requirements apply).

FOCUS AREA [1]	Moral, Political, Legal, and Economic Thought.
FOCUS AREA [2]	Global Political Economy.
FOCUS AREA [3]	Social Justice, Policy, and Governance.
FOCUS AREA [4]	Data, Decisions, and Behavior.
FOCUS AREA [5]	Social, Political, and Economic Entrepreneurship.

PPE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Below is a list of courses and opportunities that can be paired with **PPE's Bridge Experience** zero-credit course **PPE 3900**.

PPE 4964: Internship.

The Center offers students the possibility to receive three credit hours for internships, field studies, and practicum in the context of their PPE major. This experiential learning opportunity is open to students who have secured an internship with high PPE relevance, have completed PPE 2894, are in good academic standing, and have an in-major and overall GPA of 2.5 or better.

PPE 4964: PPE Journal.

The Center offers an experiential learning opportunity in the context of its international undergraduate research journal, *The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Review* (PPER). The internship allows the journal's editor-in-chief to work closely with PPE Core Faculty, student editors, authors, and reviewers in preparation of the publication of a new volume of the PPER.

PPE 4884: PPE Capstone Course.

The PPE Capstone Course allows PPE majors 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. If connected with a specific career goal, the research project conducted in the context of the PPE Capstone Course can count as a bridge learning experience.

PPE Study Abroad in Düsseldorf.

PPE has established an international partnership with the PPE Program at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf in Germany. The partnership allows selected PPE majors to spend a semester abroad. Courses taken in the context of the study abroad will contribute to students' PPE major requirements and, if connected with career exploration, can count as a bridge learning experience.

Washington Semester in Global Engagement.

The Center participates in the Washington Semester in Global Engagement. This experiential learning program allows Virginia Tech students to spend a semester in Washington, D.C., while earning fifteen credit hours for their degrees and taking a semester-long internship.