Bachelor of Philosophy Sample Plan of Studies  
Majors: Physics and Politics and Philosophy

The majors I have chosen reflect my broad interests. I feel at home in the sciences and the humanities, which I believe is fundamental to a liberal arts education. My program of study has been very fulfilling, insofar as it satisfies my love of mathematics and scientific rigor, as well as my draw to substantive human issues. My studies have been demanding; I always push myself to go above and beyond what is expected of an average student. I am completing an honors program in physics, as well as completing a dual major of philosophy and political science. I have worked very hard every step of the way to attain high grades, but more importantly, pride in my accomplishments at the end of each semester.

In physics, I am fascinated by its continuous evolution, and am glad to have knowledge of a field that changes so quickly. On that note, I find the history of physics a fascinating subject of study. The ways in which humanity’s picture of the universe has changed is apparent in major scientific revolutions, and provides an interesting topic of philosophical discussion. Also, I am interested in science education. I feel it is very important for every individual, and especially those at university who have the opportunity to do so, to learn how to “do” science. The rigorous classes and instructors I have encountered have benefited my general education so much by teaching me how to approach problems scientifically.

My initial draw to philosophy was the outstanding reputation of the faculty here at the University of Pittsburgh, and I have found that to be exactly so. Studying with a group of top-notch graduates with truly stimulating faculty has enriched my capabilities to analyze and reason. I have been challenged and sharpened by some of the most intelligent people I have met. I mostly enjoy my studies in philosophy because of the way it relates to so many other fields; political theory, religion, ethics, science – my studies in all of these fields have been enriched by philosophical investigation.

My specific area of interest in studying political science is the often unpredictable American system. Being prompted to look at the United States through the eyes of foreign nations has proved to be very enlightening. I am also interested in American politics because of the diversity of cultural backgrounds the state represents. The way the nation and its institutions have developed through history to adapt to this, as well as the public expectation and institutional responsibility to do so, is something I would like to study more.

Obviously, my curriculum reflects breadth, and I sometimes regret that I have been unable to devote a greater percentage of my time to one, focused topic. However, the breadth of my studies has enabled me to import concepts and modes of thinking from one field into other strikingly different ones, even into courses outside of my majors. Ultimately, my education has prepared me to handle myself in three very different academic environments.