



Bachelor's Degree in Christian Philosophy

Program Presentation

The Bachelor's Degree in Christian Philosophy at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) constitutes a comprehensive educational proposal that unites the millennial tradition of Philosophy (love of wisdom) with Christian Revelation, following the magisterium that emphasizes the harmony between faith and reason (*Fides et Ratio*). In the biblical and ecclesial tradition, Philosophy has been considered the *ancilla Theologiae* (handmaid of theology), not in a sense of subordination, but as the discipline that provides the conceptual tools for a deep understanding of the mysteries of faith, the defense of truth, and the articulation of an integral vision of the human being and the cosmos. This vocation toward total truth is renewed in the contemporary context through metaphysics, ethics, and philosophical anthropology—disciplines that seek to answer fundamental questions about being, knowledge, morality, and human destiny, in constant dialogue with faith.

UNICA's Bachelor's Degree in Christian Philosophy offers an interdisciplinary education that combines logic, metaphysics, the history of thought, and the study of classical sources (Latin and Greek), preparing students to:

- Understand the foundations of being, knowledge, and morality from a classical and Christian perspective (philosophical realism).
- Engage in cultural and ethical debate, articulating sound arguments in defense of truth and human dignity.
- Accompany processes of intellectual and spiritual discernment, uniting the clarity of reason and the light of faith.
- Lead research, teaching, and intellectual formation projects in academic and ecclesial contexts.

Thanks to its virtual and blended modality, the program is accessible to students from diverse contexts, who may carry out research seminars and teaching practices in their places of residence or in partner institutions. Likewise, its bilingual offering (Spanish and English) opens doors for intellectual dialogue within multicultural and international communities of believers.

Justification

The Bachelor's Degree in Christian Philosophy is fundamentally relevant to the life and mission of the Church, being the discipline that ensures intellectual solidity and the capacity for dialogue in a world marked by relativism and a crisis of foundations.

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1. **Formation of Priests:** It is indispensable. Philosophy forms right thinking, the capacity for rigorous reasoning, and the aptitude to articulate theology (*Ratio Theologiae*). A priest trained in Christian philosophy can engage in dialogue with secularism, address bioethical issues with clarity, and provide a solid metaphysical basis for his preaching, defending revealed truth before intellectual challenges.
2. **Formation of Committed Laity:** The laity, called to sanctify temporal structures, need a coherent and robust worldview and anthropology. This degree equips them to be opinion leaders, educators, and professionals who apply universal ethical principles (Natural Law) in their fields (politics, economics, law), becoming agents of truth in the public square.
3. **Pastoral Agents and Leaders of Diverse Traditions:** The study of philosophy provides the universal language for dialogue. It enables pastoral leaders to understand the worldviews underlying different cultures and traditions (including atheism and scientism), fostering ecumenical and interreligious dialogue grounded in common reason and the search for truth. Thus, the Church ensures that its mission is based on realism and respect for human intelligence.

Institutional

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical institution of Christian-Catholic inspiration, committed to comprehensive formation in the light of the Gospel and the living tradition of the Church. It integrates faith and reason, fosters spiritual life, and trains its students for intellectual, social, and pastoral service in contemporary society.

Identity

Mission

To train professionals in Christian Philosophy with academic, ethical, pastoral, and spiritual competencies, prepared to research, teach, and disseminate the truth about being, humanity, and God, promoting the harmony between faith and reason, in fidelity to the evangelizing mission of the Church.

Vision

To be recognized as a Catholic university of reference in the formation of Christian philosophers and humanists, with impact in metaphysical research, public ethics, and intellectual dialogue in America and worldwide.

Values

Truth, Charity, Excellence, Holiness, Unity, and Service.

Technical Program Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Bachelor's Degree in Christian Philosophy

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Academic Level	Undergraduate / Bachelor's Degree
Duration	8 semesters (curricular structure organized by semesters)
Total Credits	160 credits (average of 20 credits per semester)
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous/asynchronous classes, intensive research seminars, and teaching/ethical analysis practices)
Language Offer	Spanish / English / Bilingual (according to student's selection)
Location	State of Texas, U.S.A.
Degree Awarded	Bachelor in Christian Philosophy — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Admission Requirements (Profile and Documentation)

- Recognized High School Diploma or equivalent (GED).
- Secondary school transcript / academic record.
- Personal essay (letter of motivation and vocational discernment toward the study of philosophy and Christian thought).
- Admission interview (academic and vocational/intellectual).
- One pastoral or academic recommendation.
- Demonstration of language proficiency according to the modality (see language section).
- For international students: compliance with current immigration and/or visa requirements.
- The university may include additional requirements in accordance with institutional and accreditation regulations.

Formative

Purpose

To train leaders in philosophy with a solid classical, metaphysical, and ethical foundation, capable of integrating human reason with Christian faith for research, teaching, and moral discernment in public and ecclesial life.

Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, the Bachelor in Christian Philosophy will be able to:

- Critically analyze the main philosophical systems and problems throughout history.
- Apply the principles of Logic and Metaphysics for coherent and rigorous thinking.
- Integrate philosophical foundations with biblical revelation and Fundamental Theology.
- Design and lead research and teaching projects in philosophy and ethics.
- Promote faith–reason dialogue in the context of contemporary science and culture.
- Develop reading and basic translation skills of classical sources (Latin and Greek).
- Use digital and technological resources for the management and dissemination of philosophical thought.
- Research and critically evaluate philosophical currents contrary to realism and faith.

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Competencies

- Generic: critical thinking, oral and written communication, intellectual leadership, teamwork, intercultural sensitivity, digital competencies.
- Specific: Formal and Informal Logic, Realist Metaphysics, Applied Ethics (Natural Law), History of Thought, Fundamental Theology, Social Doctrine of the Church, Philosophical Teaching.

Language Offer and Language Requirements

The program is offered in three modalities: Spanish, English, and Bilingual. Language certification requirements remain equivalent to other programs (TOEFL/IELTS, DELE, or institutional tests).

Curriculum Plan by Semester (8 semesters — 160 credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Summary	Prerequisites
1	FIL-101	Introduction to Philosophy and Classical Realism	6	The meaning of philosophy, its methods, and the search for truth.	None
	FIL-102	Formal and Informal Logic	6	Principles of valid reasoning, fallacies, and critical thinking.	None
	FIL-103	Latin I: Morphology and Vocabulary	4	Basic grammar for reading philosophical and ecclesial texts.	None
	FIL-104	History of Ancient Philosophy (Presocratics - Aristotle)	4	Origins of Western thought, Plato, and the Aristotelian system.	None
Total			20		
2	FIL-201	Metaphysics I: The Study of Being (<i>Ens</i>)	6	Ontology, categories of being, and transcendentals.	FIL-101
	FIL-202	Epistemology and Theory of Knowledge	6	Foundations, limits, and validity of human knowledge.	FIL-102
	FIL-203	Greek I: Alphabet and Basic Grammar	4	Introduction to the language of the Gospels and Plato.	FIL-103

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	FIL-204	Philosophy of Nature and Cosmology	4	Study of movement, causality, and change in the cosmos.	FIL-104
Total			20		
3	FIL-301	History of Medieval Philosophy (Augustine - St. Thomas)	6	Patristics, Scholasticism, and the foundational encounter between Faith and Reason.	FIL-201
	FIL-302	Philosophical Anthropology I: Soul and Body	6	Study of the human being, essence, intellect, and will.	FIL-201
	FIL-303	General Ethics and Natural Law	4	Foundations of morality, human act, and Natural Law.	FIL-202
	FIL-304	Introduction to Sacred Scripture (Philosophical Vision)	4	The Bible as a source of wisdom and the concept of Revelation.	None
Total			20		
4	FIL-401	History of Modern Philosophy (Descartes - Kant)	6	The subjectivist turn, rationalism, empiricism, and idealism.	FIL-301
	FIL-402	Latin II: Reading of Philosophical and Theological Texts	6	Advanced translation of texts by Cicero, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas.	FIL-103
	FIL-403	Political Philosophy and the Common Good	4	Origin of the State, justice, rights, and Christian social thought.	FIL-303
	FIL-404	General Elective I	4	Elective course in humanities or social sciences.	According to elective
Total			20		
5	FIL-501	History of Contemporary Philosophy (19th and 20th Centuries)	6	Phenomenology, existentialism, nihilism, and postmodernity.	FIL-401



	FIL-502	Christian Philosophy and <i>Fides et Ratio</i>	6	In-depth study of the systematic integration of philosophy and faith.	FIL-402
	FIL-503	Applied Ethics and Fundamental Bioethics	4	Ethical principles concerning life, technology, and the ecological crisis.	FIL-303
	FIL-504	Teaching Practice I (supervised)	4	First experience in teaching philosophy or logic.	FIL-302
Total			20		
6	FIL-601	Metaphysics II: Natural Theology (Philosophy of God)	6	Demonstrations of the existence of God, His attributes, and Providence.	FIL-201
	FIL-602	Social Doctrine of the Church (Philosophical Foundation)	6	Analysis of philosophical principles of SDC: person, solidarity, subsidiarity.	FIL-403
	FIL-603	Methodology of Philosophical Research	4	Workshop on writing, citation, and source analysis for the thesis.	FIL-501
	FIL-604	Research Practice II (intensive)	4	Intensive experience in analysis and critique of philosophical texts.	FIL-504
Total			20		
7	FIL-701	Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas (Thomism)	6	Systematic study of the <i>Disputed Questions</i> and the <i>Summa Theologica</i> .	FIL-301
	FIL-702	Philosophical Anthropology II: Affectivity and Freedom	6	Philosophy of the passions, love, pain, and vocation.	FIL-302
	FIL-703	Intellectual Leadership and Public Debate	4	Skills for ethical participation in cultural and political debates.	FIL-502



	FIL-704	Advanced Elective in Philosophy (e.g., Christian Existentialism)	4	Specialized course in a philosophical school or thinker.	According to elective
Total			20		
8	FIL-801	Integrative Seminar and Degree Thesis	10	Development and defense of an original philosophical research work.	FIL-601
	FIL-802	Professional Ethics and Deontology of the Philosopher	6	Ethical principles in teaching, research, and consultancy.	FIL-503
	FIL-803	Philosophy of Religion and Intercultural Dialogue	4	Reason in the face of the religious phenomenon and understanding among cultures.	FIL-702
Total			20		

Methodology and Evaluation

- Mixed methodology: synchronous/asynchronous classes, reading seminars of primary sources (in Latin/Greek and translation), logic and argumentation workshops, intensive seminars, and field practices in academic institutions or ethics centers.
- Continuous evaluation: logic exercises, analysis and translation of classical texts, argumentative essays, critical reading reports, original philosophical research, and defense of the final thesis.
- In the bilingual modality, social and linguistic competencies will be evaluated in both languages.

Institutional Observations and Regulatory Compliance

The university will adapt documents and admission requirements in accordance with the regulations of the State of Texas and the current authorization and accreditation conditions for religious institutions and programs in virtual/hybrid modality.