

POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY & ECONOMICS HANDBOOK



ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

This guide was made by the PPE Representatives in consultation with Faculty members. We acknowledge the work of the previous representatives in setting up the handbook, this version of the Student Handbook is an adaptation of the previous version

DISCLAIMER: The information in this guide is meant to serve as a ready reference for students. Some information may become backdated with changes in curriculum, policies etc. Thus, you are requested to confirm the latest updates from the official website and/or the PPE Student Representative before taking any action. Kindly note that this handbook is not authoritative.

Last Updated on 13th February, 2024

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
The PPE Interdisciplinary Major.....	3
Pre-College Requirements.....	3
UG2024 PPE Degree Requirements.....	4
Basic Requirements.....	5
For Politics:.....	5
For Economics:.....	5
For Philosophy:.....	5
Specialisations:.....	6
Political Science Specialisation:.....	6
Philosophy Specialisation:.....	7
Economics Specialisation:.....	7
UG 2025 & 2026 PPE Degree Requirements - 3 Year Major.....	8
Basic Requirements.....	8
For Politics:.....	8
For Economics:.....	8
For Philosophy:.....	9
Specialisations:.....	9
Political Science Specialisation:.....	9
Economics Specialisation:.....	10
Philosophy Specialisation:.....	10
UG 2026 PPE Degree Requirements - 4 Year Major.....	11
Basic Requirements.....	11
For Politics:.....	11
For Economics:.....	12
For Philosophy:.....	12
Specialisations:.....	13
Political Science Specialisation:.....	13
Economics Specialisation:.....	13
Philosophy Specialisation:.....	14
UG 2026 PPE Degree Requirements - 4 Year PPE with Research.....	14
Important Rule for both 3-year and 4-year degrees.....	15
Cross-Listed Courses:.....	15
Grades:.....	15
Academic Awards.....	16
Dean's List.....	16
Latin Honours.....	16
Miscellaneous.....	16
Student Representatives:.....	16

The PPE Interdisciplinary Major

The PPE major combines three of the most prominent approaches to understanding the social and political world, how it shapes individuals, and how individuals shape it. The knowledge and skills it inculcates in students are relevant for various careers, including politics, journalism, consulting, the media, activism, the NGO sector, banking, law, and academia. The Politics and Economics components enable students to develop an understanding of the many social forces at work around them, and the Philosophy component enables them to reason about these forces with rigour.

Pre-College Requirements

Students who have studied Mathematics in Classes 11 and 12 can pursue the interdisciplinary Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) major from Ashoka University with no further requirements.

For students who have **not** studied mathematics in classes 11 and 12, they are required to take MAT 1000: Calculus (a 1000 level course) offered by the Mathematics department and secure **at least an A-** before opting in for Mathematics for Economics and other Economics courses.

From Monsoon 2023, students have to appear for an eligibility test to register for MAT 1000. The details of this test are provided by the Mathematics department. For the last updated details, you may refer to the "Special Advisory for Calculus" section of the [Mathematics Handbook](#) (2023).

UG24 PPE Degree Requirements

To graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) from Ashoka University, students are required to complete a **minimum of 116 credits** with a **Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) ≥ 1.67 (3 year PPE)** during their period of study. This includes a fundamental requirement of **16 courses** within the three fields: Politics, Philosophy and Economics. The distribution of these courses is determined by the specialisation (or lack thereof) the student decides upon. However, each student must complete **at least 4 courses** in the three aforementioned fields.

The table below provides a breakdown of the minimum degree requirements for a PPE Major:

Classification	Number of Courses
Foundation Courses (FCs)	8 Courses
Introduction to Critical Thinking (ICT)	1 Course
PPE Major Courses	16 Courses
Co- Curricular Courses (CCs)	2 Courses
Other Courses: Through a minor, concentration, assortment of courses in different disciplines, and/or additional courses in PPE	3 Courses - Minimum Requirement to meet the 116-Credit Requirement

Basic Requirements

These include the four compulsory courses from each of the three disciplines.

For Politics:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Indian Politics	Spring Semester
Western Political Thought I/ Introduction to Political Theory	Course Offering Alternates Between Semesters
Introduction to Comparative Politics	Every Spring and Monsoon Semester
Any elective	

Note: If only 4 courses are taken in political science, only 1 cross-listed course is allowed.

For Economics:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Economics	Every Spring Semester
Mathematics For Economists	Every Spring Semester
Microeconomics I	Every Monsoon Semester
Macroeconomics I	Every Monsoon Semester

For Philosophy:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Philosophy	Every Spring & Monsoon Semester
Two courses are to be selected from three categories: 1. Contemporary Core (CC) 2. History of Western (HW) 3. Indian Philosophy (IN)	These courses are offered every semester, refer to this page for more information on course categories

Any elective	
--------------	--

Note 1: The two philosophy elective courses must be selected from different categories.

Symbolic Logic counts as an elective

Note 2: The two electives must be taught by the Philosophy faculty i.e., courses cross-listed with the Philosophy department taught by a faculty member of another department will not count towards these requirements.

Note 3: Courses offered by the Philosophy department in the past can be found **here**, while those currently being offered and those soon to be offered can be found **here**.

Specialisations:

To gain a specialisation in a specific field (present on the Student's transcript), they must pursue an 8-4-4 distribution of courses between the fields. They must complete the basic required courses as stated above, along with additional courses to complete the requirements of the major.

Political Science Specialisation:

Students seeking to gain a specialisation in political science must, in addition to the basic requirements listed in the section, complete 4 elective political science courses. Please note that a maximum of two cross-listed courses are allowed for such students.

Philosophy Specialisation:

Students seeking to gain a specialisation in philosophy must complete the following courses:

- Introduction to Philosophy

- 1 course from the Contemporary Core (CC) category
- 1 course from the History of Western (HW) category
- 1 course from the Indian Philosophy (IN) category
- 3 elective courses, not bound by category

Note: Students pursuing a PPE major need to take at least 4 courses taught by Philosophy faculty at Ashoka, i.e, students may take a maximum of 4 cross-listed Philosophy courses should they be pursuing a specialisation in Philosophy. Three Philosophy courses in two different categories from these three categories: Indian & Non-Western Philosophy, History of Western Philosophy, Contemporary Core, and 4) Three other Philosophy courses.

Economics Specialisation:

Course No.	Track- A	Track- B
1	Introduction to Economics	Introduction to Economics
2	Mathematics for Economists	Mathematics for Economists
3	Microeconomics I	Microeconomics I
4	Macroeconomics I	Macroeconomics I
5	Statistics for Economics	Microeconomic Theory II
6	Econometrics	Macroeconomic Theory II
For 7 & 8 opt for any two	Microeconomic Theory II	Statistics for Economics
	Macroeconomic Theory II	Econometrics
	Any ECO-3000 level course, with at most one cross-listed economics course	Any ECO-3000 level course, with at most one cross-listed economics course

UG 2025 & 2026 PPE Degree Requirements - 3 Year Major

Undergraduate batches admitted in 2022 and 2023 fall within the New Education Policy. They have the option of pursuing a 3-year or 4-year PPE major. To complete a 3-year PPE major, graduating UG 2025 or UG 2026 students must complete 15 courses across the three disciplines. The minimum requirement is 4 courses from each discipline. For PPE with Specialization, a student has to complete a total of 7 courses from the said discipline. If a student meets the specialisation criteria for two or three disciplines, then the student will select the specialisation they receive.

Basic Requirements

For Politics:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Indian Politics	Spring Semester
Western Political Thought I/ Introduction to Political Theory	Course Offering Alternates Between Semesters
Introduction to Comparative Politics	Every Spring and Monsoon Semester
Any elective	

Note: If only 4 courses are taken in political science, only 1 cross-listed course is allowed.

For Economics:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Economics	Every Spring Semester
Mathematics For Economists	Every Spring Semester
Microeconomics I	Every Monsoon Semester
Macroeconomics I	Every Monsoon Semester

For Philosophy:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Philosophy	Every Spring & Monsoon Semester
Two courses are to be selected from three categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contemporary Core (CC),- History of Western (HW)- Indian Philosophy (IN)	These courses are offered every semester, refer to this page for more information on course categories
Any elective	

Note 1: The two elective courses must be selected from different categories. Symbolic Logic counts as an elective

Note 2: The two electives must be taught by the Philosophy faculty i.e., courses cross-listed with the Philosophy department taught by a faculty member of another department will not count towards these requirements.

Note 3: Courses offered by the Philosophy department in the past can be found **here**, while those currently being offered and those soon to be offered can be found **here**.

Specialisations:

To gain a specialisation in a specific field (present on the Student's transcript), they must pursue a 7-4-4 distribution of courses between the fields. They must complete the basic required courses as stated above, along with additional courses to complete the requirements of the major.

Political Science Specialisation:

Students seeking to gain a specialisation in political science must, in addition to the basic requirements listed in the section, complete 3 elective political science courses. Please note that a maximum of two cross-listed courses are allowed for such students.

Economics Specialisation:

PPE majors must complete 3 additional Economics courses which could be ECO 1400 or any ECO 2000 or higher level course subject to course prerequisites, with no more than 1 cross-listed Econ course.

Philosophy Specialisation:

Students seeking to gain a specialisation in philosophy must complete the following courses:

- Introduction to Philosophy
- 1 course from the Contemporary Core (CC) category
- 1 course from the History of Western (HW) category
- 1 course from the Indian Philosophy (IN) category
- 3 elective courses, not bound by category

Note: Students pursuing a PPE major need to take at least 4 courses taught by Philosophy faculty at Ashoka, i.e, At least 4 Philosophy courses must be taught by Philosophy faculty (that is, they cannot be cross-listed courses taught by faculty in other departments like Political Science). **Three Philosophy courses in two different categories from these three categories: Indian & Non-Western Philosophy, History of Western Philosophy, Contemporary Core, and 4) Three other Philosophy courses.**

UG 2026 PPE Degree Requirements - 4 Year Major

The Undergraduate batches admitted after 2022 have the option of pursuing a 4-year PPE major. To major in PPE, students pursuing a 4-year major must complete 20 courses across the three disciplines. The minimum requirement is 4 courses from each discipline. **Further, a 4-yr PPE major must complete either Statistics with Economics or Quantitative Research Methods in Politics.** The remaining 7 courses can be from any constituent discipline. For PPE with Specialization, a student has to complete a total of 8 courses from the said discipline. If a student meets the specialisation criteria for two or three disciplines, then the student will select the specialisation they receive.

Basic Requirements

For Politics:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Indian Politics	Spring Semester
Western Political Thought I/ Introduction to Political Theory	Course Offering Alternates Between Semesters
Introduction to Comparative Politics	Every Spring and Monsoon Semester
Any elective	

Note: If only 4 courses are taken in political science, only 1 cross-listed course is allowed. Quantitative Research Methods will be counted as an elective **only if both** Statistics for Economics and QRM in Politics are taken by a student.

For Economics:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Economics	Every Spring Semester
Mathematics For Economists	Every Spring Semester
Microeconomics I	Every Monsoon Semester
Macroeconomics I	Every Monsoon Semester

For Philosophy:

Course	Timeline
Introduction to Philosophy	Every Spring & Monsoon Semester
Two courses are to be selected from three categories: Contemporary Core (CC), History of Western (HW) Indian Philosophy (IN)	These courses are offered every semester, refer to this page for more information on course categories
Any elective	

Note 1: The two elective courses must be selected from different categories. Symbolic Logic counts as an elective

Note 2: The two electives must be taught by the Philosophy faculty i.e., courses cross-listed with the Philosophy department taught by a faculty member of another department will not count towards these requirements.

Note 3: Courses offered by the Philosophy department in the past can be found **here**, while those currently being offered and those soon to be offered can be found **here**.

Important Rule for both 3-year and 4-year degrees

Having PPE major precludes you from receiving a major or minor in any of the constituent disciplines (Phil, Pol, Econ) or a major or minor in an interdisciplinary degree containing any of the constituent disciplines.

Specialisations:

To gain a specialisation in a specific field (present on the Student's transcript), the student must complete 8 courses in the field. Since student has to do 20 courses in all, a specialisation could constitute 8-6-6, 8-5-7, or 8-4-8 distribution of courses between the fields. If a student is eligible for multiple specialisations (e.g. on a 8-4-8 distribution), they may choose one and only one specialisation for their transcript. They must complete the basic required courses as stated above, along with additional courses to complete the requirements of the major.

Political Science Specialisation:

Students seeking to gain a specialisation in political science must, in addition to the basic requirements listed in the section, complete 4 elective political science courses. Please note that a maximum of two cross-listed courses are allowed for such students.

Economics Specialisation:

Students seeking to gain a specialisation in economics must complete the four compulsory economics courses, ECO 1400 (Statistics for Economics) and 3 additional Economics courses which could be any ECO 2000 or higher level course subject to course prerequisites, with no more than 1 cross-listed Econ course.

Philosophy Specialisation:

Students seeking to gain a specialisation in philosophy must complete the following courses:

- Introduction to Philosophy
- 1 course from the Contemporary Core (CC) category
- 1 course from the History of Western (HW) category
- 1 course from the Indian Philosophy (IN) category
- 4 elective courses, not bound by category

Note: Students pursuing a PPE major need to take at least 4 courses taught by Philosophy faculty at Ashoka, i.e., At least 4 Philosophy courses must be taught by Philosophy faculty (that is, they cannot be cross-listed courses taught by faculty in other departments like Political Science). **Out of the 8 required courses, students must complete three Philosophy courses in two different categories from these three categories: Indian & Non-Western Philosophy, History of Western Philosophy, Contemporary Core. Three Philosophy courses in two different categories from these three categories: Indian & Non-Western Philosophy, History of Western Philosophy, Contemporary Core, and 4) Three other Philosophy courses.**

UG 2026 PPE Degree Requirements - 4 Year PPE with Research

For the research degree, a student has to meet the four-year PPE degree requirements and also meet 12-credit dissertation requirements in either Economics, Philosophy, or Political Science. The dissertation requirements may differ across disciplines.

A PPE student who has met the 3-year criteria of PPE with Economics Specialization is eligible to write a dissertation in Economics in the 4th year (to get a “Hons with Research” degree). The dissertation credit requirements are the same as that of an Econ major dissertation (4 credit Research Methods + 8 credit thesis).

In the 4th year, a PPE student may write a dissertation in Political Science (to get a “Hons with Research degree”). The process and requirements are the same as that of a Politics major dissertation.

To write a dissertation in Philosophy (to get a “Hons with Research degree”), students must fulfil the requirements for a Philosophy thesis: a permanent (not visiting) Philosophy professor must agree to advise the thesis, the student must fill out the registration form in Spring Semester of their 3rd year, and the student must enroll in the thesis research seminar in the 4th year.

Cross-Listed Courses:

When a course is cross-listed, the first department mentioned in the course code is that of the department the course arises from. For that department, the course doesn't count as a cross-listed course. The status as cross-listed that is relevant to the cap on cross-listed courses applies only to the further departments mentioned in the course code.

A cross-listed course is one that fulfils the requirements of all departments cross-listed while earning a student only four credits. It can be double, or triple counted, thereby fulfilling major/minor requirements of up to 3 departments. So, you receive only 4 credits for a PHI/POL course for example, but it will contribute towards the Philosophy as well as the Politics requirements.

Grades:

A student's performance in any academic course is graded on a letter scale (*ranging from A to F*). Each grade carries a grade point (such as an A gives 16 grade points, while an A- gives 14.8). On this basis, at the end of every semester a student's cumulative grade point average

(CGPA) and semester-specific GPA are calculated. Based on their academic merit, students may be conferred the following awards:

Academic Awards

Dean's List

The names of students with a GPA ≥ 3.65 are included within the Dean's List for that particular semester.

Latin Honours

Students who have achieved scholastic distinction may be awarded the bachelor's degree with Latin honours at graduation. Honours appear on the official transcript and diploma. The criteria for these honours has been illustrated in the table below:

Latin Honour	Criterion
Cum laude (With Distinction)	CGPA ≥ 3.60
Magna Cum Laude (With High Distinction)	CGPA ≥ 3.75
Summa Cum Laude (With Highest Distinction)	CGPA ≥ 3.90

Miscellaneous

Student Representatives:

The PPE Student Representatives are Rahael Braganza and Nishant Kumar for the academic year 2023-24. Feel free to mail them regarding anything PPE-related at the **PPE Representative ID**.