Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Philosophy

Examine your life

The study of Philosophy enables students to explore critically various systems of beliefs and values, to grapple with the foundations of their own beliefs and values, to develop habits of critical thinking, writing, and reading, and to use these skills to address real world problems. Students completing a major in Philosophy have the option of pursuing an emphasis in one of three areas: Ethics & Moral Reasoning; Law, Justice, & Social Policy; and Mind & World. Program goals and objectives can be found on our website: www.csub.edu/philosophyrs

The Department hosts a chapter of the Phi Sigma Tau International Honors Society in Philosophy. Through its association with the Kegley Institute of Ethics, the department offers students the opportunity to engage with major public issues of the day. The annual CSUB Philosophy & Religious Studies Undergraduate Conference provides a forum for the presentation of work by undergraduates from CSUB and other universities in all areas of philosophical and religious studies.

Career Opportunities

Graduates in Philosophy gain a set of skills that will be valuable for pursuing any career path, for leading a fruitful life, and for engaging as a responsible citizen and community member. Graduates in Philosophy have gone on to successful careers in a wide range of fields, including:

- Education
- Law
- Journalism
- Business
- Government
- Non-profit organizations
- Counseling
- Social work
- Historical preservation
- Politics
- Computer science
- Information technology
- Marketing
- Communications
- Writing
- Publishing
- Research
- Medicine

Philosophy majors often receive among the highest scores on a variety of graduate admissions exams, including the LSAT (law), GMAT (business administration), MCAT (medicine), and GRE (used by many different graduate programs).

Benefits of Double Major or Minor

A degree in Philosophy can be combined with a major in a different discipline to broaden and deepen a student’s education. Many students find that studying Philosophy alongside a second major gives them an advantage over other students pursuing careers in fields like business or one of the sciences. Some common double majors include: Philosophy and Political Science, Philosophy and Psychology, Philosophy and Biology, Philosophy and Business, Philosophy and English, Philosophy and Engineering, Philosophy and Physics, Philosophy and Communications, and Philosophy and Art.

Faculty & Staff

- Michael D. Burroughs, Ph.D. Ethics, Ethics Education, Social Epistemology, Community Engaged Philosophy, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy for Children/in K-12 Education
- Steven Gamboa, Ph.D. Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, History of Analytic Philosophy, Inductive Logic and Confirmation Theory, Early Modern Philosophy
- Debra Jackson, Ph.D. Feminist Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Social/Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, and Critical Thinking
- Jacquelyn Kegley, Ph.D. Philosophy of Science, Philosophy and Technology, Self and Mind, American Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Neuro/Bio-Ethics
- Paul Newberry, Ph.D. Moral Psychology, Critical Thinking, History of Western Philosophy, Ethics, Metaethics, Contemporary Philosophy
- Nate Olson, Ph.D. Practical Ethics, Ethical Theory, Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law
- Maria Paleologou, Ph.D. History of Philosophy, especially Ancient Greek Philosophy; History of Ethics, Applied Ethics, Metaphysics, Aesthetics, Logic
- Senem Saner, Ph.D. History of Philosophy, especially 19th Century Philosophy; Political Philosophy, 20th Century Continental Philosophy, Feminist Theory, Postcolonial Theory
- Tamar Anthony, Administrative Support Coordinator

Contact Information

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“I see philosophy as a white room with unending walls. A philosopher is the artist that draws on these walls all the thoughts, ideas, and questions.”
-Alfeah Muharram, CSUB Philosophy Student

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy

Total Units Required to Graduate 120 units

Major Requirements 40 units
  Lower Division 3-9
  Upper Division 31-37

General Education Requirements 38-54 units
  First-Year Seminar 2
  LD Area A Foundational Skills 12
  LD Area B Natural Sciences 6
  LD Area C Arts and Humanities 6
  LD Area D Social and Behavioral Sciences 6
  American Institutions 6
  SELF 0-3
  Junior Year Diversity Requirement 0-3
  UD Thematic Areas B and D 0-6
  Capstone 0-1
  GWAR (Exam) or Class 0-3

Additional Units 26-42 units
*The SELF requirement may double count with B, C, or D. JYDR may be satisfied in major, minor or other university requirement. Students are waived from UD area of their program. Capstone may be satisfied within the senior seminar. GWAR may be satisfied with waiver exam.

Requirements for Major in Philosophy (13 courses)
1. Core Courses. PHIL 2610, 3010, 4908
2. History of Western Philosophy. One (1) course required from: PHIL 3210, 3220, 3230, or 3240
3. Value Theory. One (1) course required from: PHIL 4410, 4420, 4430, or 4440
4. Metaphysics & Epistemology. One (1) course required from: PHIL 4510, 4520, 4530, or 4540
5. Electives. 6 additional courses in philosophy, minimum 4 upper-division (18 units)
6. Experiential Learning. One (1) course required from: PHIL 3610, 3620, 4610 or 4620

Law, Justice, and Social Policy Emphasis (15 courses)
1. Core Courses. PHIL 2610, 3010, 4908
2. History of Western Philosophy. One (1) course required from: PHIL 3210, 3220, 3230, or 3240
3. Value Theory. PHIL 4410 and Two (2) courses required from: PHIL 3318, 3338, 4420, or 4430
4. Metaphysics & Epistemology. PHIL 3548 and One (1) course required from: PHIL 4510, 4520, 4530, or 4540
5. Elective (1 additional upper division course in PHIL)
6. Experiential Learning. PHIL 3610 or 4620
7. Breadth (12 units). Select four (4) courses from the following list: COMM 3302, CRJU 4600, ENGL 3268, HIST 3138, NURS 4210, PLSI 3628, PLSI 3380, PPA 3000, PNG 3408, RS 3528, RS 4528, SCI 3209, SOC 2300, SOC 3320, SOC 4028

Mind & World Emphasis (15 courses)
1. Core Courses. PHIL 2610, 3010, 4908
2. History of Western Philosophy. Two (2) courses required from: PHIL 3210, 3220, 3230, or 3240
3. Value Theory. One (1) course required from: PHIL 3340, 3358, or 4430
4. Metaphysics & Epistemology. Three (3) courses required from: PHIL 3520, 3530, 4510, 4520, 4530, or 4540
5. Elective. (1 additional upper division course in PHIL)
6. Experiential Learning. One (1) course required from: PHIL 3610, 3620, 4610 or 4620
7. Breadth (12 units). Select four (4) courses from the following list: CMPS 3560, CMPS 4560, PSYC 3210, PSYC 3220, PSYC 3240, PSYC 3260, PSYC 3630, PSYC 4420, PSYC 4430, PSYC 4440, PSYC 4520, PSYC 4610

Ethics & Moral Reasoning Emphasis (15 courses)
1. Lower division requirement. One (1) course required from: PHIL 1319 or 2019
2. Core Courses. PHIL 2610, 3010, 4908
3. History of Western Philosophy. Two (2) courses required from: PHIL 3210, 3220, 3230, or 3240
4. Value Theory. Three (3) courses required from: PHIL 3518, 3538, 4420, or 4430
5. Metaphysics & Epistemology. One (1) course required from: PHIL 4510, 4520, 4530, or 4540
6. Experiential Learning. PHIL 3610 or 4620
7. Breadth (12 units). Select four (4) courses from the following list: CMPS 3560, CMPS 4560, PSYC 3210, PSYC 3220, PSYC 3240, PSYC 3260, PSYC 3630, PSYC 4420, PSYC 4430, PSYC 4440, PSYC 4520, PSYC 4610

Requirements for the Minor in Philosophy
The minor requires 12 units, at least nine of which must be upper division.