

## Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Philosophy

"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

### Contact Information

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Are you interested in the history of human thought? Are you curious about the meaning of justice, the existence of God, the justifiability of capitalism, or the nature of identity? Do you want to investigate the major ethical dilemmas facing us today?

Majoring in Philosophy allows you to ask the big questions and explore the issues you are passionate about while providing excellent preparation for your future career. Philosophy majors are uniquely skilled at complex reasoning and critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication – abilities prized by employers and graduate and professional schools. Interested in law school, politics, or a career in public service? Philosophy majors at CSUB have the option of pursuing an emphasis in Law, Justice, & Social Policy.

Our Philosophy majors enjoy many opportunities to deepen their education and engage their communities both inside and outside of the traditional classroom:

- Ethics Bowl
- Philosophy for Children (P4C)
- The Kegley Institute of Ethics
- Phi Sigma Tau International Honors Society in Philosophy
- The Philosophy Club
- Philosophy & Religious Studies Undergraduate Conference
- Philosophy majors are frequently awarded grants, fellowships, and other honors at CSUB and beyond

### Career Opportunities:

Did you know that Reid Hoffman (co-founder of LinkedIn), Rashida Jones (actor, writer, producer, director), and Phil Jackson (11x NBA champion coach) were philosophy majors? Check out this list of other famous and accomplished philosophy majors:

<https://www.apaonline.org/page/whostudiesphilosophy>

Studying philosophy is valuable no matter what career path one pursues, from academia to business to entertainment to politics. **And it pays well!**

Mid-Career Salaries by Major\*:

- \$90,500 Civil Engineering
- \$88,300 Finance
- \$82,300 MIS
- \$81,200 Philosophy
- \$79,600 Marketing
- \$77,100 Accounting
- \$72,100 Business Management
- \$70,000 Communication
- \$67,000 Nursing
- \$66,700 Journalism
- \$64,700 English
- \$60,400 Psychology

\*Data from PayScale and the Wall Street Journal: [https://www.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees\\_that\\_Pay\\_you\\_Back-sort.html](https://www.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees_that_Pay_you_Back-sort.html)

Philosophy graduates typically earn top scores on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), and Graduate Management Admission Test favored by MBA programs (GMAT).\*\*

Philosophers are also admitted to professional and graduate schools at higher rates than most other majors. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, philosophers are accepted into medical school at a higher rate (50%) than all other majors, including biology (35%)!

\*\*Data from Daily Nous: <https://dailynous.com/value-of-philosophy/charts-and-graphs/>

### Benefits of Double Major or Minor

Combining Philosophy with another discipline helps you stand out in your field.

Philosophy helps Psychology majors delve into the complexities of personhood.

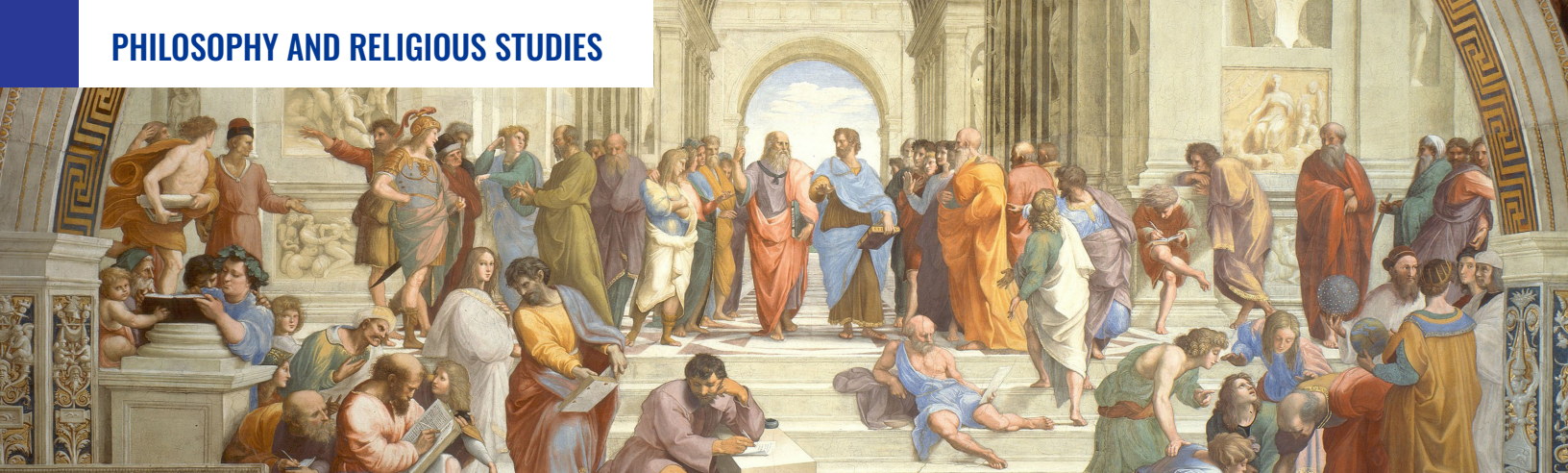
Philosophy helps Business majors develop collaboration and leadership skills.

Philosophy helps Science and Engineering majors examine their field's assumptions and values.

Philosophy helps other Humanities majors deepen their theoretical understanding of history, art, literature, and music.

Whatever path you choose, a Philosophy double major or minor helps you become an independent and innovative thinker with creative problem-solving skills.





## Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy

Requirements	Units
Total Units Required to Graduate	120 units
Major Requirements	39 units
Core Courses	9
Major Theme Courses	15
Elective Courses	15
General Education Requirements	38-53 units
First-Year Seminar	2
LD Area A Foundational Skills	6-9*
LD Area B Natural Sciences	9
LD Area C Arts and Humanities	3-6*
LD Area D Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
LD Area F Ethnic Studies	3
American Institutions	6
SELF	0-3*
Junior Year Diversity Requirement	0-3*
UD Thematic Areas B and D	6*
Capstone	0*
GWAR	0-3*
Additional Units	43-28 units

\*A3 requirement may be satisfied within the major. Area C2 may be satisfied within the major. The SELF requirement may double count with B, C, or D. JYDR may be satisfied with Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality (PHIL 3548). Students are waived from UD area of their program. Capstone may be satisfied through Senior Seminar. GWAR may be satisfied with Professional Ethics (PHIL 3318).

## B.A. in Philosophy

### Degree Requirements

#### Requirements for the Major in Philosophy (13 courses)

1. Core Courses: PHIL 2610, 3010, 4908
2. History of Western Philosophy: One course required from: PHIL 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240
3. Value Theory: One course required from: PHIL 4430, 4440, 4450
4. Social and Political Philosophy: One course required from: PHIL 4410, 4420, 4550
5. Metaphysics and Epistemology: One course required from: PHIL 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540
6. Experiential Learning: One course required from: PHIL 3610, 3620, 4610, 4620
7. Electives: Five additional courses in philosophy, minimum two upper-division (15 units)

#### Requirements for the Law, Justice, and Social Policy Emphasis (15 courses)

1. Core Courses: PHIL 2610, 3010, 4908
2. History of Western Philosophy: One course required from: PHIL 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240
3. Value Theory: PHIL 4410 and two courses required from: PHIL 3030, 3318, 3348, 4420, 4430, 4450, 4550
4. Metaphysics and Epistemology: PHIL 3548 and one course required from: PHIL 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540
5. Experiential Learning: One course required from: PHIL 3610, 4620
6. Elective: One additional upper-division course in PHIL
7. Breadth: Select four courses from the following list: ACCT 2350, BA 2100, COMM 3010, CRJU 1108, CRJU 3260, CRJU 3318, CRJU 4638, PLSI 3140, PLSI 3170, PLSI 3450, PLSI 3770, PLSI 4410, PLSI 4770

#### Requirements for the Minor in Philosophy

The minor requires 12 units, at least nine of which must be upper division.

#### Faculty & Staff

- Fran Fairbairn, Ph.D., Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Education, Logic, Feminist Philosophy
- 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
- Nate Olson, Ph.D., Ethics, Bioethics, Ethics Education, Environmental Ethics, Philosophy of Law
- Maria Palaiologou, Ph.D., History of Philosophy, Ancient Greek Philosophy, Ethics, Philosophy in Literature & Film, Aesthetics, Gender, Race, Logic
- Senem Saner, Ph.D., History of Philosophy, especially 19th Century, Social/Political Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Public Philosophy, Philosophy for Children
- Tiffany Tsantsoulas, Ph.D., Feminist Philosophy, Critical Philosophy of Race, Decolonial Philosophy, Contemporary Continental Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy, and Value Theory
- Tamar Anthony, Administrative Support Coordinator