



Why major in philosophy at Cal State Fullerton?

Why should we be moral? Do human beings have free will? What is knowledge and do we know anything? What is happiness? Does the soul exist? What makes an action right or wrong? If you love thinking about questions like these, you should be a philosophy major! Studying philosophy will give you the opportunity to talk, argue and reason about fundamental questions and problems and about the assumptions that underlie other disciplines such as physics, psychology, business, medicine and religion. As a philosophy major, you will develop the abilities to think critically, construct convincing arguments and express yourself articulately. You will be encouraged to evaluate the ideas and arguments of others and to develop and defend your own ideas. These skills will be valuable no matter what career you choose. Because of its training in foundational reasoning skills, philosophy offers exciting employment opportunities in a number of fields including law, business, teaching (elementary, secondary and university), medicine, creative writing and journalism.

Great Curriculum – The Department of Philosophy offers a wide range of courses that is unmatched by most public or private universities in California. Topics covered are the history of modern philosophy, existentialism, Asian philosophy, medical ethics, environmental ethics, the philosophy of language, logic and feminist philosophy. In addition, a concentration in **Social, Moral and Legal Philosophy for the Professions** provides students with superb preparation for success in law school and the legal profession.

Outstanding Faculty – Our faculty members are nationally-recognized scholars who hold degrees from prestigious universities. They are eager to share their enthusiasm about philosophy with students.

Wonderful Opportunities for Students – Our students benefit from a number of opportunities for academic, personal and professional development.

- At the annual Philosophy Symposium, students engage in philosophical discussions with well-known scholars from other universities. The Symposium offers both current students and alumni a chance to interact with and comment on papers presented by visiting philosophers.

- Three student awards are presented annually—the Paul Hayner Award for the outstanding philosophy graduate, the William Alamshah Memorial Prize for the outstanding philosophical essay, and the Craig and Claire Ihara Award for outstanding contributions to the CSUF philosophical community.
- The Alamshah Fund also provides department funding for student participation in conferences, scholarship awards, and other special events for student involvement.
- Depending on their future goals, students have the opportunity to pursue two different internships: one that offers teaching experience at a community college and another that provides work experience in a professional setting.

Flexibility – Classes meet to coincide with various work schedules, both during the day and in the evening.

Why major in philosophy if I have professional career goals?

The philosophy major enables students to attain foundational reasoning skills that are essential for success in any profession. In particular, it provides superb preparation for careers in law, education, government and writing.

Law - Philosophy's special interest in ethics and the normative foundations of democratic society make it an ideal choice for students interested in the normative and ethical issues of law and politics. Our department offers a concentration in *Social, Moral and Legal Philosophy for the Professions*. Students who complete the concentration, while earning their degree in philosophy, find they are equipped with the intellectual skills necessary to successfully apply to, enter and graduate from competitive law schools. In connection with the concentration, our department offers interested students a professional pre-law career adviser.

Education - Students interested in teaching can do an internship to gain college teaching experience before graduation. Our program also provides opportunities to work closely with the faculty members on methods of pedagogy.

Medicine and Policy - Professional internships and our courses in medical ethics and environmental ethics help prepare students for careers in medicine and policy-making.

Graduate School - Our program's emphasis on writing is an excellent preparation for graduate programs in the humanities and professions like editing and publishing.

What courses are required?

The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy requires a minimum of 39 units.

Upper-division writing requirement (3 units)

Philosophy 315 Philosophical Argumentative Writing (3 units)

History of Philosophy (15 units)

Philosophy 290 Greek Philosophy (3 units)

Philosophy 300 Rationalism and Empiricism (3 units)

Philosophy 301 Kant and the 19th Century (3 units)

Choose two additional History of Philosophy courses from the following: (6 units)

Philosophy 291 Medieval Philosophy (3 units)

Philosophy 323 Existentialism (3 units)

Philosophy 380 Analytic Tradition: 1900-1950 (3 units)

Philosophy 381 Analytic Tradition: 1950-present (3 units)

Philosophy 383 Postmodernism (3 units)

Philosophy 425 Introduction to Phenomenology (3 units)

Other Course Requirements (6 units)

Choose one course from each of the following areas:

Area I Ethics, Aesthetics, Value Theory (3 units)

Philosophy 345 Social and Political Philosophy (3 units)

OR Philosophy 410 Ethical Theory (3 units)

Area II Metaphysics, Epistemology (3 units)

Philosophy 420 Metaphysics (3 units)

OR Philosophy 430 Epistemology (3 units)

OR Philosophy 440 Philosophy of Mind (3 units)

Seminar Requirement (3 units)

Choose one course from the following:

Philosophy 447T Seminar in Selected Problems (3 units)

OR Philosophy 455 Values (3 units)

OR Philosophy 460 Logic and Language (3 units)

OR Philosophy 470 Metaphysics and Epistemology (3 units)

OR Philosophy 480 History of Philosophy (3 units)

OR Philosophy 490 Contemporary Philosophy (3 units)

Electives (12 units)

Choose 12 units of philosophy courses, with a maximum of six lower-division units, which have not been used to fulfill other requirements.

Is a minor in philosophy available?

Students in other disciplines often find that a background in philosophy enriches their university experience and enhances work done in other fields. The philosophy minor can consist of specified core courses, or can be designed for the individual student in the way that best complements their own major. The minor requires 21 units in philosophy with at least 12 units in upper-division courses. In addition, a maximum of nine units of philosophy may be taken in fulfillment of general education requirements counted toward the minor.

What activities can I join?

The Philosophy Club is an active group that sponsors lectures, student colloquia, films, social gatherings and the annual Philosophy Symposium. The Philosophy Symposium is a proud and distinguished tradition at Cal State Fullerton that dates back to 1971. Philosophy students serve as chairs and commentators for professional papers presented at the annual Symposium. Additionally, students find that their learning opportunities are enhanced through their close interaction with faculty members and visiting philosophers.

Who advises me?

The philosophy undergraduate adviser will answer your questions about the department. Call the office, at (714) 278-3611, to get the number for the adviser, or visit our website at: <http://hss.fullerton.edu/philosophy> to learn more about the program. You may also contact faculty members via e-mail using the addresses listed below.

What are the backgrounds of the faculty members?

MITCH AVILA, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1993. (Social and political philosophy and the philosophy of law) E-mail: mavila@fullerton.edu

AMY COPLAN, Ph.D., Emory University, 2002. (Ancient philosophy, moral psychology and aesthetics) E-mail: acoplan@fullerton.edu

HEATHER BATTALY, Ph.D., Syracuse University, 2000. (Epistemology and ethics) E-mail: hbattaly@fullerton.edu

ALBERT FLORES, Ph.D., Ohio State, 1974. (Ethics, applied ethics and aesthetics) E-mail: aflores@fullerton.edu

BRIAN GARRETT, Ph.D., McGill University, Canada, 1997. (Metaphysics, philosophy of mind and psychology, and early modern philosophy) E-mail: bgarrett@fullerton.edu

CRAIG K. IHARA, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 1972. (Ethics and Asian philosophy) E-mail: cihara@fullerton.edu

MERRILL RING, Ph.D., University of Washington, 1965. (philosophy of language and ancient philosophy) E-mail: mring@fullerton.edu

J. MICHAEL RUSSELL, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1971. (Existentialism and psychoanalysis, and the philosophy of mind) E-mail: jmrussell@fullerton.edu

SHARI NELLER STARRETT, Ph.D., University of California, Riverside, 1989. (19th century German and contemporary European philosophy, and philosophy of feminism) E-mail: ssstarrett@fullerton.edu

How can I learn more?

Please visit our website for a complete list of our faculty members. The department's website (<http://hss.fullerton.edu/philosophy>) provides an introduction to faculty members, descriptions of courses, and acquaints students with graduation requirements. We encourage you to look us up on the Internet; however, we suggest that you also visit us in person and speak with an adviser. Faculty offices are in Humanities 311. The Department office is located in Humanities 314. You can write to us at Department of Philosophy, California State University, Fullerton, P.O. Box 6868, Humanities 314, Fullerton, CA 92834-6868.