PHILOSOPHY

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Programs Offered

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Pre-Law/Applied Ethics (Optional) Concentration

Minor in Philosophy

The Philosophical Life

The value of a philosophy degree stems from the richness of the perennial themes that are addressed in philosophical texts and discussions. Majors in this department balance their studies of the great classical themes of philosophy with a focus on the particular philosophical issues that are of paramount importance to them. In designing the department major, care has been taken to emphasize both the historical and analytical dimensions of philosophy, as well as its theoretical and practical dimensions. In this regard, the Department of Philosophy believes that the Socratic dictum "know thyself!" requires the exercise of both theoretical and practical reason. The design of the major expresses this fundamental belief.

In its historical dimensions, an education in philosophy gives the student a nuanced appreciation of the wide array of conceptual systems that human beings have employed to deal with questions concerning reality, justice, truth, morality, and the meaning of life. In its analytical and critical dimensions, philosophy trains one to detect and avoid errors in thinking. Such training involves special emphasis on the logical use of language, the analysis of concepts, and the ability to critique and construct extended arguments.

Philosophy's emphasis on both the imaginative and critical use of rationality helps prepare one for a wide variety of careers that require finely-honed reasoning and communication skills. Such fields include law, medicine, social and political advocacy, counseling, teaching, print and electronic media, and research and writing in both academic and nonacademic fields.

Faculty and Curriculum

At the heart of the philosophy program is the faculty: dedicated teachers and scholars who represent key approaches to philosophy, and who are actively engaged in ongoing research. We have designed the curriculum to provide the major with a contemporary understanding of philosophy.

Advising

Advising begins with an initial advising interview with the department chair. During the following semester the student will choose a regular faculty advisor. See department Administrative Coordinator at department office for details.

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

(See page 217 for sample four-year programs.)

A major in philosophy involves completing ten required courses. The content of these courses might vary from semester to semester; however, in sum they will provide the student with a broad and interesting body of knowledge of contemporary and historical issues in philosophy.

Degree Requirements	Units
General education (50, 4 units in major)	46
Major requirements	40
General electives	34
Total units needed for graduation	**120**

Major Core Requirements

PHIL 120 Introduction to Philosophy	4
PHIL 202 Proseminar	4
PHIL 204 Applied Ethics	4
PHIL 207 Philosophical Movements	4
PHIL 301 Philosophy of Science and Technology	4
PHIL 302 Ethics and Value Theory	4
PHIL 303 Social and Political Philosophy	4
PHIL 306 Contemporary Topics	4
PHIL 307 Philosophical Figures	4
PHIL 400 Senior Seminar	4
Total units in the major core	**40**

Students planning on attending graduate school are strongly encouraged to complete a senior thesis in the department. This two semester option is open to all students too.

In exceptional cases, the Philosophy Department permits the design of an individual major. A proposal for an individual major must be approved by three members of the full-time faculty selected by the applicant. These three faculty members shall constitute the student's major committee.

Pre-Law/Applied Ethics (optional) Concentration

The Philosophy Department offers majors the option of choosing a concentration in pre-law and applied ethics. This option does not increase the overall number of required units. For a list of the required courses in the pre-law and applied ethics concentration see the list below. For a sample four-year progression through the major with the concentration in pre-law and applied ethics see the sample four-year plan below.

Major Core Requirements

PHIL 102 Introduction to Logic	4
PHIL 120 Introduction to Philosophy	4
PHIL 202 Proseminar	4
PHIL 204 Applied Ethics	4
PHIL 302 Ethics and Value Theory	4
PHIL 303 Social and Political Philosophy	4
PHIL 306 Contemporary Topics or 307 Philosophical Figures	4
PHIL 375 Philosophy of Law	4
PHIL 400 Senior Seminar	4
PHIL 499 Law Ethics, and Justice Internships	4
Total units in the (pre-law) core	**36**

Minor in Philosophy

To obtain a minor in Philosophy, the student must complete 16 units (4 courses) in the Philosophy Department at Sonoma State University. The student can choose any combination of Philosophy courses to obtain the minor, but no more than three GE courses in philosophy can be included in this combination and at least two of the four courses must be upper division.

Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

FRESHMAN YEAR: 30 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)	*Spring Semester (15 Units)*
PHIL 120 (A3) (4)	GE (8)
GE (8)	University Electives (7)
University Electives (3)	

SOPHOMORE YEAR: 30 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)	*Spring Semester (15 Units)*
PHIL 202 (4)	PHIL 204 (4)
PHIL 207 (4)	GE (8)
GE (4)	University Electives (3)
University Electives (3)	

JUNIOR YEAR: 31 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)	*Spring Semester (16 Units)*
PHIL 302 (4)	PHIL 306 (4)
PHIL 303 (4)	GE (6)
GE (4)	University Electives (6)
University Electives (3)	

SENIOR YEAR: 29 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)	*Spring Semester (14 Units)*
PHIL 301 (4)	PHIL 307 (4)
GE (8)	PHIL 400 (4)
University Electives (3)	University Electives (6)

TOTAL UNITS: 120

Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy Pre-Law/Applied Ethics Concentration

FRESHMAN YEAR: 30 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)	*Spring Semester (15 Units)*
PHIL 120 (4)	PHIL 102 (4)
GE (8)	GE(8)
University Electives (3)	University Electives (3)

SOPHOMORE YEAR: 30 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)	*Spring Semester (15 Units)*
PHIL 202 (4)	PHIL 204 (4)
GE (4)	GE (8)
University Electives (7)	University Electives (3)

JUNIOR YEAR: 31 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)	*Spring Semester (16 Units)*
PHIL 302 (4)	PHIL 306 or PHIL 307 (4)
GE (6)	PHIL 375 (4)
University Electives (5)	GE (4)
	University Electives (4)

SENIOR YEAR: 29 Units

Fall Semester (15 Units)	*Spring Semester (14 Units)*
PHIL 303 (4)	PHIL 400 (4)
GE (8)	PHIL 499 (4)
University Electives (3)	University Electives (6)

TOTAL UNITS: 120

Courses may be interchanged fall and spring semester depending on course offering each semester.