

PHILOSOPHY BA

Philosophy majors address the fundamental questions by developing foundational cognitive skills. They learn to question the things most people take for granted and they learn how to go about pursuing the answers to those questions. The great virtue of philosophy is that it teaches you not what to think, but how to think. Consequently, a philosophical education is a valuable foundation for just about any career and just about any sort of life. Some philosophical questions you might explore include:

- Do people really have free will?
- Can computers think?
- What is an ethical life?
- What moral obligations do I have to other people? To nonhuman animals? To the environment?
- What does identity consist in? What makes a person the same person over time? How should we understand race, gender, and other aspects of identity?
- Is it possible to know anything with absolute certainty?
- Does the universe have a purpose? Does life?
- Is there a God? Does it make a difference if there is or isn't a God?
- What makes one's life a good life?

If you enjoy deeply engaging discussions about God, reality, ethics, politics and religion, then the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy is for you.

Advising Requirement

Advising is mandatory for this program. Consult your department advisor or program coordinator for information.

E-advising Tools

Use the interactive e-advising tools designed to help students graduate within four years. These tools can be accessed through the Student Center in the Portal (<https://portal.csuchico.edu>).

Grading Requirement

All courses taken to fulfill program course requirements must be taken for a letter grade except those courses specified by the department as credit/no credit grading only.

Course Requirements for the Major: 36 units

Completion of the following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, is required of all candidates for this degree. Courses in this program may complete more than one graduation requirement.

Course	Title	Units
PHIL 201	History of Ancient Philosophy	3
PHIL 302	History of Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 380	Intermediate Logic	3
PHIL 490W	Senior Capstone Seminar (W)	3
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 101	Introduction to Philosophy	
PHIL 104	The Good Life	
Select one of the following:		3

PHIL 320	Ethics	
PHIL 340W	Social and Political Philosophy (W)	
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 336	American Indian Environmental Philosophies	
PHIL 337W	Philosophy of Race (W)	
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 360	Theory of Knowledge (Epistemology)	
PHIL 361	Metaphysics	
Select three of the following:		9
PHIL 303W	History of 19th Century Philosophy (W)	
PHIL 305	Continental Philosophy	
PHIL 335	Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl	
PHIL 357	Feminist Philosophy	
PHIL 367	Philosophy of Mind and Language	
PHIL 370	Philosophy of Science	
	or PHIL 370W Philosophy of Science (W)	
PHIL 375	Philosophy of Psychology	
PHIL 384	Aesthetics	
PHIL 420W	Contemporary Moral Theory (W)	
PHIL 480	Advanced Logic	
PHIL 499HW	Senior Honors Research Paper (W)	
Select three units from the following:		3
Any Philosophy (PHIL) courses (except PHIL 102) selected in consultation with the Philosophy Department advisor		
Total Units		36

Electives Requirement

To complete the total units required for the bachelor's degree, select additional elective courses from the total University offerings. You should consult with an advisor regarding the selection of courses which will provide breadth to your University experience and possibly apply to a supportive second major or minor.

Honors in the Major

Honors in the Major is a program of independent work in your major. It requires six units of honors coursework completed over two semesters.

The Honors in the Major program allows you to work closely with a faculty mentor in your area of interest on an original performance or research project. This year-long collaboration allows you to work in your field at a professional level and culminates in a public presentation of your work. Students sometimes take their projects beyond the University for submission in professional journals, presentation at conferences, or academic competition. Such experience is valuable for graduate school and professional life. Your honors work will be recognized at your graduation, on your permanent transcripts, and on your diploma. It is often accompanied by letters of commendation from your mentor in the department or the department chair.

Some common features of Honors in the Major program are:

- You must take six units of Honors in the Major coursework. All six units are honors courses (marked by a suffix of H), and at least three of these units are independent study (399H, 499H, 599H) as specified by your department. You must complete each course with a minimum grade of B.

- You must have completed 9 units of upper-division coursework or 21 overall units in your major before you can be admitted to Honors in the Major. Check the requirements for your major carefully, as there may be specific courses that must be included in these units.
- Your cumulative GPA should be at least 3.5 or within the top 5% of majors in your department.
- Your GPA in your major should be at least 3.5 or within the top 5% of majors in your department.
- Most students apply for or are invited to participate in Honors in the Major during the second semester of their junior year. Then they complete the six units of coursework over the two semesters of their senior year.
- Your honors work culminates with a public presentation of your honors project.

Honors in the Major is not part of the Honors Program. Each department administers its own program. Please contact your major department or major advisor to apply.

To graduate with Honors in Philosophy a student must:

1. Fulfill all requirements for a major in philosophy.
2. Write a Senior Honors Thesis. (See PHIL 499HW)
3. Achieve a grade point average of at least 3.66 in those courses taken to fulfill the requirements for the major and PHIL 499HW.
4. Pass satisfactorily an oral examination on the thesis.

See Bachelor's Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/bachelors-degree-requirements/>) for complete details on general degree requirements. A minimum of 39 units, including those required for the major, must be upper division.

General Education Requirements: 43 units

See General Education (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education-academic-success/general-education/#general-education-requirements>) and the Class Schedule (<http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/>) for the most current information on General Education requirements and course offerings.

American Institutions Course Requirements: 6 units

The American Institutions graduation requirement, as mandated in Title 5, Section 40404 ([https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I56C041434C6911EC93A8000D3A7C4BC3/?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I56C041434C6911EC93A8000D3A7C4BC3/?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))), requires that students satisfactorily complete courses in United States history, the US Constitution, and government and American ideals (including California state and local government). At Chico State, HIST 130 meets the US history requirement (US-1), and POLS 155 meets the US Constitution and government requirement (US-2) and the California state and local government requirement (US-3). POLS 155 also fulfills three units of GE Area 4, Social and Behavioral Sciences. See Bachelor's Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/bachelors-degree-requirements/#amin>) for more information.

Diversity Course Requirements: 6 units

You must complete a minimum of two courses that focus primarily on cultural diversity. At least one course must be in US Diversity (USD)

and at least one in Global Cultures (GC). See Diversity Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/diversity-requirements/>) for a full list of courses. Many courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also apply to General Education (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education-academic-success/general-education/>).

Upper-Division Writing Requirement

Writing Across the Curriculum (EM 17-009 (<https://www.csuchico.edu/pres/em/2017/17-009.shtml/>)) is a graduation requirement and may be demonstrated through satisfactory completion of four Writing (W) courses, two of which are designated by the major department. See Writing and Math Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/writing-math-requirements/>) for more details on the four courses. The first of the major designated Writing (W) courses is listed below.

- PHIL 303W History of 19th Century Philosophy (W)
- PHIL 323W Moral Issues in Parenting (W)
- PHIL 327W Health Ethics (W)
- PHIL 337W Philosophy of Race (W)
- PHIL 339W/RELS 339W Confronting the Animal: Theory, Culture, and Practice (W)
- PHIL 340W Social and Political Philosophy (W)
- PHIL 341W Justice and Global Issues (W)
- PHIL 370W Philosophy of Science (W)
- PHIL 420W Contemporary Moral Theory (W)

The second major-designated Writing course is the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GW) (EO 665 (<https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/9585618/latest/>)). Students must earn a C- or higher to receive GW credit. The GE English Composition (1A) (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education-academic-success/general-education/#1A>) requirement must be completed before a student is permitted to register for a GW course.