

PHILOSOPHY BA

More Information

Advising Requirement

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

E-advising Tools

Students are encouraged to use the interactive e-advising tools that have been designed to help them graduate within four years. These tools can be accessed through the Student Center.

Philosophy is a first choice for students who want to develop an ability to think clearly and reason well, and who want to find answers to life's most important questions, such as:

- 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.

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/LAST 226 | Latin American Philosophy | |
| 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 370V 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 |

Philosophy and Law Advising Cluster

Those students majoring in philosophy who plan to enter law school should consider, as part of or in addition to the regular degree requirements the following cluster of courses. See the Undergraduate Advisor for additional information.

| Course | Title | Units |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| LEGL 356 | Legal Analysis | 3 |
| LEGL/MCGS 451B | Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties | 3 |
| PHIL 332 | Criminal Justice Ethics | 3 |
| PHIL 380 | Intermediate Logic | 3 |
| PHIL/POLS 438 | Jurisprudence: Philosophy of Law | 3 |
| Total Units | | 15 |

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.

While Honors in the Major is 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: 48 units

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

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. Most courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also apply to General Education (<https://>

catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/).

Upper-Division Writing Requirement

Writing Across the Curriculum (EM 17-009 (<http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/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 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning and Writing Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/mathematicsquantitative-reasoning-writing-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 Written Communication (A2) (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/#A2>) requirement must be completed before a student is permitted to register for a GW course.