

What will I learn?



EPISTEMOLOGY

The study of the origin, nature, and limits of human knowledge. What do people know and how do they know it?



ETHICS

The search for a criterion of moral conduct. How should people act? What does 'right' or 'goodness' mean?



METAPHYSICS

The study of the nature of existence and all that exists. What is real? Is this the real life or is this just fantasy?



HISTORY

The study of philosophical ideas and concepts through time, including ancient, medieval, modern, Western, Asian, religious or secular traditions.



WRITING

The practice of writing logical, analytical essays through critical thinking, evaluation, and use of correct reasoning.



Beyond the classroom

Our philosophy students have earned McNair scholarships, Fulbright grants, and SRS awards. They have studied abroad in Europe, Asia, and Central America.

In addition to research, our students are active in organizations on campus, including Amnesty International, Ethics Bowl, the Secular Student Alliance, Mortar Board, Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy Honors Club), Phi Kappa Phi, the Associated Students, the *Daily Aztec* newspaper, and the Philosophy Club.

The Department of Philosophy is also home to the *Journal of Ethics*, *Dialogue*, and the Institute for Ethics and Public Affairs, which offers colloquia lectures during the semester.

Department of Philosophy

Arts & Letters, Room 446

(619) 594-5263 • philosophy.sdsu.edu

PHILOSOPHY

The Major

The Minor



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Why study Philosophy?

Do you wonder about reality? Do you question what 'truth' is? Philosophy studies the types of questions that other majors do not address. Because of its emphases on clarity, argumentation, and critical evaluation, just a single course in philosophy may provide you with the abilities to:

- Think critically and objectively
- Write clearly and effectively
- Analyze policies for fairness and accuracy
- Present your case convincingly
- Develop creative solutions to unique situations

Double Major

A second degree in philosophy can add to your primary degree in the eyes of employers. Here are some career opportunities if you pair:

Philosophy

- + **Political Science/History/English =**
Lawyer / Judge
- + **Biology =**
Doctor / Environmental Activist
- + **Theater / Film =**
Director / Actor / Documentarian
- + **Business =**
CEO / Philanthropist
- + **Psychology =**
Neuroscientist / Counselor
- + **Physics =**
Inventor / Sci-Fi Writer

Jobs

Need a job? Thinking about graduate school? Philosophy majors have the highest overall score on the GRE. On the GMAT, Philosophy majors outperform majors in economics, statistics, finance, accounting, etc. Need a J.D.? On the LSAT, Philosophy majors rank significantly better than any other humanities degree. Philosophers enjoy the best chance of admission to medical school of any major. Out of all the majors in CAL (with the exception economics), Philosophy pays the highest mid-career salary.

Source: <http://www.whystudyphilosophy.com/>

Becoming a Philosopher

The philosophy major includes the following required courses:

Lower Division Courses (6 units)

PHIL 120: Intro to Logic
3 units of PHIL 101, 102, or 110

Upper Division Courses (27 units)

PHIL 401A and B: History of Philosophy
21 additional units of philosophy

NOTE: Please see General Catalog for course listings, language and writing requirements, and GE requirements. No more than 6 units of 300-level philosophy courses will count towards the major.

Philosophy Minor

Minor in Philosophy (18 units)

The minor in philosophy consists of a minimum of 18 units in philosophy to include at least 3 lower division units and 15 upper division units. No more than 6 units of 300-level philosophy courses will count towards the minor.

Philosophy graduates find careers in:

- **Tech Industry:**
computer and software design
- **Government and NGOs:**
politics and community service
- **Medical Industry:**
medicine and administration
- **Business:**
management and entrepreneurship
- **Publishing:**
technical and creative writing