

PHILOSOPHY

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

English composition,
Humanities,
Math,
Science.

Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

Beginning logic.

Recommended:

History of philosophy,
Ethics.

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* (www.catalog.ucsb.edu) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see www.assist.org.

Philosophy asks those questions that engage all sensitive and reflective people, but which seemingly cannot be answered by any of the empirical sciences: Is human behavior determined or is free choice possible? Are there objective standards for determining right and wrong, or is morality subjective? Can we objectively distinguish rational from irrational beliefs? Is everything material? Is there a God?

The study of philosophy encourages rigorous and disciplined habits of mind and sharpens the critical intellect. Philosophers think carefully and precisely about issues of fundamental importance. Philosophy students find that a detailed, critical examination of various positions is exciting both logically and as a means of clarifying their own beliefs and values.

The Major

UCSB's Philosophy Department offers the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. Students may concentrate in one of the following areas:

Core Philosophy Concentration—for students with a general interest in philosophy and those preparing for graduate study in the discipline. Exposes students to major philosophers and a wide range of philosophical issues. To prepare for the major, students must complete specified courses in critical thinking or logic. Completion of a yearlong sequence in the history of philosophy is strongly recommended. Ideally, students should complete this preparatory coursework in their freshman and sophomore years (or prior to transfer). The major requires completion of courses in major areas of philosophy such as ethics, theory of knowledge, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, and metaphysics. Also required are courses on important individual philosophers of the ancient and modern periods.

Ethics and Public Policy Concentration—focuses on moral and legal problems confronting the community and responsibilities of various professions. This emphasis is intended for a variety of students, especially those pursuing careers in law, medicine, and government. To prepare for the major, students must complete specified courses in critical thinking or logic and an introductory moral issues course. The major requires completion of upper-division (sophomore and junior level) coursework in ethics, in moral, political, and legal philosophy, and in individual philosophers' thinking.

Each concentration allows for elective coursework. Through electives, students may study the philosophy of religion, science, history, mathematics, and law. There is an advisor for each concentration as well as a departmental advisor. All are available to help students plan effective and appropriate programs of study.

Careers in Philosophy

UCSB's Philosophy major develops skills and abilities in analysis, reasoning, and communication that can be applied to a number of careers. For example, Philosophy majors can analyze a position, discover the assumptions and values that underlie it, reason clearly and cogently, and present and defend a case for one's position.

With these skills, and with specialized coursework and additional training or experience, UCSB Philosophy students may secure positions in writing, editing, and publishing,

in marketing research, and in media analysis. Students may enter jobs in business, such as management, sales, advertising, and personnel work.

Philosophy majors are well prepared to undertake graduate study in the field, and to enter professional schools and credential programs that lead to careers in law, medicine, social work, and education. Students interested in teaching at the university level should complete graduate study through the Ph.D. degree. Students interested in teaching in California's public secondary or elementary schools must obtain the Single or Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. UCSB's Graduate School of Education offers teaching credential programs; students pursuing them should meet with the education advisor in the College of Letters and Science early in their academic careers to plan study programs that fulfill all graduate school admission requirements.

For more information on UCSB's Philosophy major, please call or write to:

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