

PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OFFICE

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Programs Offered

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
Pre-Law/ Applied Ethics (Optional) Concentration
The Good Life Concentration
Social Justice Concentration
Science and Technology and Ethics Concentration

Minor in Philosophy

The Philosophical Life

The overall aim of the SSU Philosophy Department is to train and inspire students to become effective ethical agents in the world. The research focus of our faculty covers a range of topics in practical philosophy: environmental ethics; robo-ethics and artificial intelligence; compassion, pro-social emotions and moral psychology; moral theory; philosophy of law; philosophy of race; philosophy of gender; social justice; the good life; and global interdependence. Although students will specialize in one of the four concentrations, they will have ample opportunity to take classes from all the concentrations. Students will graduate with a well-rounded background and training in practical philosophy.

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.

Career Options

Philosophy majors have interesting career options, which include but are not limited to: law, public policy, medicine and medical ethics, ethical analyst for technology research and design, education (primary, secondary, and post-secondary), international relations,

government, and business. Philosophy was recently determined to result in the highest mid-career salary of any major outside of the STEM fields. It is regularly cited by business and industry leaders as a desired major to hire from, as philosophy is excellent training for critical thinking and effective communication.

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 228 for sample four-year programs.)

Regardless of their concentration, students complete five core courses. These courses serve two purposes: to provide a foundation in practical philosophy; and to provide students with a capstone research seminar at the end of their course of study. In addition to these five core courses, students select four additional courses from within their concentration. Two of these concentration courses are electives, which enable students to adapt their learning to their specific interests

Degree Requirements	Units
General education	50
Major Core requirements	20
Philosophy Concentration	16
University Electives	34
Total units needed for graduation	120

Major Core Requirements

PHIL 120 Introduction to Philosophy (C2)	4
PHIL 202 Becoming a Philosopher	4
PHIL 204 Applied Ethics	4
PHIL 302 Ethics and Value Theory (C2)	4
PHIL 400 Senior Seminar	4
Total units in the major core	20e

Pre-Law and Ethics Concentration

The Philosophy Department offers majors the option of choosing a concentration in pre-law and applied ethics. This option prepares students for careers in the areas of law, government service, public policy, non-profit work and administration.

Major Core Requirements

PHIL 375 Drugs, Pornography, Punishment	4
Choose one Course from the following list:	4
PHIL 303 Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 377 Legal Reasoning	

Philosophy Electives	8
Total units in the (pre-law and Ethics) core	16

The Good Life Concentration

The Philosophy Department offers majors the option of choosing a concentration in the Good Life. This option enables students to examine more closely the topics of meaning, purpose, wisdom and the good life. This concentration prepares students for careers in public service and human and health services.

Concentration Requirements

PHIL 312: Philosophy of Love and Emotion	4
Choose one Course from the following list:	4
PHIL 160A/B Humanities Learning Community	
PHIL 201 Buddhism Philosophy & Culture	
PHIL 212 The Good Life	4
Philosophy Electives	8
Total units in the (Good Life) core	16

Science, Technology, and Ethics Concentration

The Philosophy Department offers majors the option of choosing a concentration in Science, Technology and Ethics. This option prepares students for careers in the areas of applied ethics, technology, cognitive science, and artificial intelligence.

Concentration Requirements

PHIL 102 Logic	4
PHIL 301 Philosophy of Science and Technology	4
PHIL 309 Robotics	4
PHIL 212 The Good Life	
Philosophy Elective	4
Total units in the (Good Life) core	16

Social Justice Concentration

The Philosophy Department offers majors the option of choosing a concentration in Social Justice. This option enables students to specialize in the areas of race, gender and power. This concentration prepares students for careers in public service, government, and law.

Concentration Requirements

Choose 3 courses from the following list:	12
PHIL 275 Race, Racism, Law and Society	
PHIL 276 Gender and Social Justice	
PHIL 303 Social and Political Philosophy	
Philosophy Electives	4
Total units in the (pre-law and Ethics) core	16

Service Learning Requirement

At least 30 hours of service learning is required to complete the Philosophy program. The following is a list of courses that usually contain a service learning component. Additional courses may be considered, see your advisor for details.

- PHIL 202
- PHIL 375
- PHIL 160
- PHIL 312
- PHIL 309

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

The following is a sample study plan. The sequence and specific courses given are suggestive; please see an advisor each semester to plan your personal program.

FRESHMAN YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (14-16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (14-16 Units)</i>
GE (A3) (4)	GE (B4) (3-4)
GE (A2) (4)	PHIL 120 (C2) (4)
GE (3-4)	GE (3-4)
University Elective (3)	University Elective (3-4)

SOPHOMORE YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (14-16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (14-16 Units)</i>
PHIL 202 (4)	PHIL 204 (4)
GE or Concentration (4)	GE or Concentration (4)
GE (4)	GE (3-4)
GE (3-4)	University Elective (3-4)

JUNIOR YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (14-16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (14-16 Units)</i>
PHIL 302, GE (C2) (4)	Upper Division GE (3-4)
GE or Concentration (4)	GE or Concentration (4)
University Elective (3-4)	University Electives (3-4)
University Elective (3-4)	University Elective (3-4)

SENIOR YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (13-16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (14-16 Units)</i>
Upper Division GE (3-4)	PHIL400 (4)
Concentration Requirement (4)	Concentration Elective (4)
University Elective (3-4)	University Elective (3-4)
University Elective (3-4)	University Elective (3-4)

TOTAL UNITS: 120

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