Philosophy

Faculty Office Bldg. (47), Room 37
Phone: 805.756.2041
http://philosophy.calpoly.edu/
Department Chair: Tal Scriven

Academic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program name</th>
<th>Program type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>BA, Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Philosophy Department at Cal Poly is one of the largest in the CSU system. It prides itself on excellence in teaching and the high standards met by its students. A degree in philosophy is one of the best preparations for graduate or professional school and the evidence for this is substantial. Nationally, philosophy majors outscore everyone but majors in mathematics and physics on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). Similar trends are also seen for scores in all sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), the exam required by most MBA programs.

The reason for this is unsurprising. The study of philosophy requires the meticulous development of general analytical reasoning skills. Even students not planning to go on to graduate or professional school are well served by the analytical and verbal skills developed by the study of philosophy. The ability to communicate clearly and forcefully is increasingly rare and, as a result, increasingly sought after in the job market.

Undergraduate Programs

BA Philosophy

Students can pursue a curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, including an optional concentration in Ethics and Society, and a curriculum leading to a minor in Philosophy. The department also offers courses and a minor in Religious Studies. An unusually large number of courses is offered in the history of philosophy, as well as courses in specific areas of philosophy (logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology), and courses that deal with the philosophical issues arising in other disciplines (e.g., philosophy of art and philosophy of science).

Concentrations

Students may choose to complete 20 units of 300-400 level philosophy courses or the concentration.

Ethics and Society

Designed for students with an interest in pursuing professional careers in which they will need to address practical ethical issues, especially careers in business, medicine, politics and law.

Philosophy Minor

The minor program in Philosophy is designed for students who want to add to their education an understanding of the history of philosophy, of contemporary trends in philosophy, and of philosophical issues relevant to their major field of study. Interested students are invited to contact the Philosophy Department Office or website for more information and application forms.

Religious Studies Minor

The Religious Studies minor program is designed for students who want to enhance their understanding of the great religious traditions of the contemporary world and some of the social issues involving these religions. The minor consists of 24 units. Interested students are invited to contact the Philosophy Department Office for more information and application forms.