# Department of Philosophy

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http://www.humanities.uci.edu/philosophy/

## Overview

Philosophy addresses itself to questions that arise insistently in every area of human experience and in every discipline within the university. Each discipline inevitably poses problems concerning the nature of the standards appropriate to it and the place of its subject matter within the total framework of human knowledge. If we are to understand science or art or literature, or such human practices as religion and moral thought, we are bound to address ourselves to philosophical issues relating to their nature, the uses of reason appropriate to them, and the contributions they make to our understanding and appreciation of ourselves and the world in which we live.

## Undergraduate Program

Instruction in philosophy relies essentially upon discussion in which students are active participants. Wherever possible, therefore, classes are limited in size in order to permit sustained interchanges between students and instructor.

Some of the courses offered are of general interest to all students. Others are designed to explore issues that arise in selected and special disciplines such as art or science. The undergraduate advisor should be consulted for advice about courses best suited to the specialized needs of particular students.

The program of course offerings is also designed for those Philosophy majors whose intention may be either to enter some professional school upon graduation (e.g., law) or to engage in graduate work in philosophy.

The faculty encourages Philosophy majors and minors to seriously consider expanding their perspective through an experience of study abroad. The Study Abroad Center, which includes the University’s Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) and the International Opportunities Program (IOP), assists students in taking advantage of many worldwide opportunities for study and research. Specifically, those interested in analytic philosophy could consider the EAP programs in the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Australia, and New Zealand, and those interested in Continental philosophy could consider the EAP programs in France, Germany, and Italy. See the Study Abroad Center section of the [Catalogue](#) or an academic counselor for additional information.

## Requirements for the B.A. in Philosophy

**All students must meet the University Requirements.**

**All students must meet the School Requirements.**

**Departmental Requirements for the Major**

A. Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 2</td>
<td>Puzzles and Paradoxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 4</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 5</td>
<td>Contemporary Moral Problems</td>
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</tbody>
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B. Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 30</td>
<td>Introduction to Symbolic Logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 104</td>
<td>Introduction to Logic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Select two of the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 10</td>
<td>History of Ancient Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 11</td>
<td>History of Medieval Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 12</td>
<td>History of Modern Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 13</td>
<td>History of Contemporary Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Complete:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Metaphysics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 102</td>
<td>Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge</td>
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</table>

or

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 102W</td>
<td>Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 103</td>
<td>Introduction to Moral Philosophy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

E. Select five of the following:

1. 

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Residence Requirement: At least five upper-division courses required for the major must be completed successfully at UCI.

Additional Information

Career Opportunities

The study of argument and the precision and clarity of thought and writing required of Philosophy majors are excellent preparation for a variety of careers. Many undergraduates trained in Philosophy go on to professional schools in medicine, business, or law. The analytical skills developed in Philosophy courses are especially useful in legal education; indeed, many UCI Philosophy graduates have been successful at top law schools. Former Philosophy students have also used their skills to advantage in careers in government, business, teaching, law enforcement, and computer programming. Many Philosophy majors also continue their education at the graduate level, either in philosophy or a related discipline.

The UCI Career Center provides services to students and alumni including career counseling, information about job opportunities, a career library, and workshops on resume preparation, job search, and interview techniques. See the Career Center section for additional information.

Requirements for the Minor in Philosophy

Departmental Requirements

A. Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 2</td>
<td>Puzzles and Paradoxes</td>
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<td>PHILOS 4</td>
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<td>Contemporary Moral Problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 10</td>
<td>History of Ancient Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 11</td>
<td>History of Medieval Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 12</td>
<td>History of Modern Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 13</td>
<td>History of Contemporary Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 22</td>
<td>Introduction to Law and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 30</td>
<td>Introduction to Symbolic Logic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Complete four additional upper-division courses selected from PHILOS 100W–199. (PHILOS 199 may be taken for four units only.)

Residence Requirement for the Minor: Four upper-division courses must be completed successfully at UCI. By petition, two of the four may be taken through the UC Education Abroad Program, providing course content is approved in advance by the appropriate department chair.

On This Page:

- Requirements for the M.A. in Philosophy
- 4+1 M.A. Degree in Philosophy, Political Science and Economics (PPE)
- Requirements for the Ph.D. in Philosophy
- The Salzburg Exchange Program
- Program in Law and Graduate Studies
- Optional Emphasis in Critical Theory
- Optional Emphasis in Feminist Studies

Graduate Program

The Ph.D. program in Philosophy is jointly and cooperatively administered by the Department of Philosophy in the School of Humanities and the Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science (LPS) in the School of Social Sciences. The graduate program has two distinct tracks—the Philosophy track and the LPS track—both of which begin from a common core of shared requirements in history of philosophy, logic, ethics, and metaphysics/epistemology. Students are advised to apply to the track whose faculty, areas of specialization, and curriculum most closely correspond to their interests. The Philosophy track is described here. See the Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science for a description of the LPS track.

UCI’s Philosophy Department is committed to providing students a well-rounded graduate education, including central areas of contemporary philosophy and a solid foundation in the history of philosophy. Those with interests in mathematics, the natural sciences, or the social sciences are encouraged...
to take courses in Logic and Philosophy of Science and to include LPS faculty members on their dissertation committees. The cooperative two-track program provides students the benefits of faculty expertise in a host of areas.

Every year the Philosophy Department invites distinguished philosophers from other universities to present their work to faculty and graduate students. Participation in this colloquium series, though not mandatory, contributes significantly to graduate education. Colloquia sponsored by Logic and Philosophy of Science might also be of interest to Philosophy track students.

Every new graduate student is assigned a faculty member whose purpose is to oversee the student’s progress through the major requirements for the advanced degree. The student consults with this faculty member each quarter about progress and any administrative or academic difficulties. After a student has satisfied course and distribution requirements and passed the Portfolio Exam (discussed below), he or she identifies a faculty member in the Philosophy Department as his or her principal dissertation advisor. Together they will recruit the other faculty members, from both inside and outside the Department of Philosophy, who will serve as the student’s dissertation committee.

Requirements for the M.A. in Philosophy

UCI’s graduate program in Philosophy is a doctoral program. At present, no students are admitted to pursue only the M.A.

At least one year of study in the Philosophy program is usually necessary for award of the M.A. There is no list of required courses. The student may elect to follow either of the following routes to the degree: write a thesis on a subject to be chosen in consultation with an advisor and defend the thesis in an oral examination, or satisfy the Logic and Portfolio requirements (explained below).

Advancement to candidacy for the M.A. requires formal application to the Dean of Graduate Studies via the Philosophy Department Office. Application must be made with the recommendation of the Philosophy Department and must take place before the beginning of the quarter in which the student expects to receive the degree.

4+1 M.A. in Philosophy, Political Science and Economics (PPE)

The goal of this program is to train students in three critically important and related approaches to understanding the social world around us. Philosophy develops analytic rigor and trains students to reason logically. Political Science provides an understanding of how institutions impact modern societies and helps students evaluate the choices that such institutions regularly make. And economics is the study of how individuals, firms, and governments make decisions which together determine how resources are allocated. An appreciation of economics has increasingly become crucial for an understanding of institutional policy making. The objective of the M.A. in PPE is to prepare students for careers in government, law, private or public corporations, and non-profit organizations.

In order to be admitted to the program, undergraduate students must submit an application in the winter quarter of their third year. More information can be found in the School of Social Sciences’ Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science.

Requirements for the Ph.D. in Philosophy

There is no set number of courses required for the Philosophy track, so that work can be tailored to the individual student’s needs and interests. However, as a prerequisite for the Ph.D., every student is required to have some experience in teaching. Before students receive their first appointment as TAs in this department, they must complete the TA training program offered by UCI’s Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center (TLTC).

Normative time to degree in the Philosophy track is seven years for the normally qualified student. Time to advancement to candidacy is four years. Time in candidacy is three years. Maximum time to degree permitted is nine years. A master’s degree is not a prerequisite for the Ph.D. The following are requirements for the Ph.D.:  

First-Year Seminar

An examination of some standard works in the history of Philosophy, value theory, metaphysics, or epistemology; required of all first-year Philosophy graduate students in the School of Humanities.

Distribution Requirements

Students are required to take a range of courses designed to expose them to the various historical periods and fields of philosophy. When course offerings are announced, students are notified about which courses can be used to satisfy which requirements. In some cases, the requirement satisfied will ultimately depend on the content of the student’s term paper(s).

The Distribution Requirements are:

1. History. To satisfy this requirement, students must receive a grade of B or better in at least four courses covering at least three of the following areas: Ancient, Medieval, Modern Empiricism, Modern Rationalism, Kant, Nineteenth Century, and Twentieth Century.

2. Field. To satisfy this requirement, students must receive a grade of B or better in two courses in value theory, one course in logic, and two courses in metaphysics/epistemology, broadly construed.
These requirements must be completed by the end of the seventh quarter in residence.

**Logic Requirement**

Students must receive a grade of B or better in an approved logic course. This requirement must be completed by the end of the seventh quarter in residence.

**Tools of Research**

The student’s dissertation advisor may require his or her advisee to pursue the tool(s) of research deemed useful for the advisee’s dissertation research. A student might, for example, be required to take classes outside the Department of Philosophy or learn languages other than English. The Tools of Research requirement must be completed by the end of the 12th quarter in residence.

**The Portfolio**

A portfolio of at least two papers is an extended writing sample designed to demonstrate a student’s ability (a) to understand, analyze, and evaluate positions and arguments in the philosophical literature, and (b) to formulate and defend an original philosophical thesis. These virtues must be displayed at a level of sophistication indicating the student’s ability to write a Ph.D. dissertation.

The portfolio must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator at the end of the fifth week of the student’s sixth quarter in residence. Portfolios will be evaluated by the entire faculty of the Philosophy Department. (Philosophy track students may request that relevant LPS faculty also be present at the evaluation meeting.)

**Prospectus Examination**

In preparation for the prospectus examination, students choose a dissertation advisor and a dissertation committee. They consult with their thesis advisor and other appropriate faculty to prepare a reading list on their area of concentration and a brief dissertation proposal with a comprehensive bibliography. The exam is an oral exam and is normally completed at the end of the seventh quarter, but must be completed by the end of the ninth quarter in residence. The prospectus exam is to determine whether the dissertation project is viable and promises results that will fulfill standards expected for a dissertation in the profession.

**Candidacy Examination**

In preparation for the candidacy examination, students prepare at least a draft chapter of their dissertation, an outline of the organization of the work, and update their prospectus and bibliography in consultation with their dissertation advisor and their dissertation committee. Students apply for candidacy by filing appropriate forms, including a list (devised in consultation with their advisor) of appropriate members for their Candidacy Committee; one of these, the External Examiner, must come from outside the Department of Philosophy. The Committee is then appointed by the Philosophy Department, on behalf of the Dean of the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council, to administer the oral candidacy examination on the prospectus and draft chapter(s) to determine whether or not the student will be approved to continue work on the dissertation.

The Candidacy Examination is normally completed at the end of the ninth quarter, but must be completed by the end of the 12th quarter in residence. The Philosophy Department Chair, on behalf of the Dean of the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council, then appoints a Doctoral Committee (typically taken from the Candidacy Committee and naturally including the dissertation advisor) to supervise the writing of the dissertation.

**Dissertation Defense**

Students must defend their dissertation during an oral examination administered by their Doctoral Committee.

**Program in Law and Graduate Studies (J.D./Ph.D.)**

Highly qualified students interested in combining the study of Law with graduate qualifications in Philosophy are invited to undertake concurrent degree study under the auspices of UC Irvine's Program in Law and Graduate Studies. Students in this program pursue a coordinated curriculum leading to a J.D. from the School of Law in conjunction with a Ph.D. in Philosophy. Students must be admitted to both programs separately in order to pursue the concurrent Program in Law and Graduate Studies. Students admitted to the Program in Law and Graduate Studies have to complete all of the requirements of each degree. The normative time for completion of the Program in Law and Graduate Studies is eight years for the J.D./Ph.D. combination. Additional information is available from the Program Director's Office 949-824-4158, or by email to plgs@law.uci.edu (plgs@law.uci.edu). A full description of the program, with links to all relevant application information, can be found at the Program in Law and Graduate Studies homepage (http://www.law.uci.edu/academics/interdisciplinary-studies/concurrent-degrees.html).

**The Salzburg Exchange Program**

The Department of Philosophy and the Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science jointly administer an Exchange Program with the University of Salzburg. The program has two parts. The Scholarly Exchange provides opportunities for faculty and graduate students in Philosophy and LPS to visit Salzburg and for faculty and graduate students from Salzburg to visit one or the other of the UCI units. The Program also sponsors joint conferences, held alternately in Irvine and in Salzburg; these are co-sponsored by Salzburg and the UCI Interdisciplinary Program in the History and Philosophy of Science.

To be eligible for the Salzburg Exchange, a graduate student must have advanced to candidacy. The selected student spends one semester in Salzburg, usually teaching one course in the general area of the thesis topic. An upper-division course may be taught in English, but lower-division
courses must be taught in German. (Some previous visitors have learned serviceable German by attending a Goethe institute during the preceding summer.) Typically, a Salzburg visitor will receive a Salzburg Fellowship intended to cover travel expenses, and a stipend; those who teach while in Salzburg will also receive a salary intended to cover living expenses (including health and dental insurance).

Application should be made to the Philosophy Department’s Salzburg Exchange Director by November 1 and should include a curriculum vita and syllabi for possible courses to be taught. The Director and/or the Philosophy Department Graduate Coordinator should be consulted for further information.

Optional Emphasis in Critical Theory

The School of Humanities offers an emphasis in Critical Theory that can be appended to the Philosophy track. A student interested in the emphasis begins by taking the three-quarter Critical Theory Workshop. With the recommendation of a workshop instructor or a Critical Theory faculty member in the Philosophy Department, the student may then apply to the Critical Theory Committee for admission to the emphasis. Emphasis students must complete the following requirements in addition to the usual Philosophy track requirements.

The Critical Theory Workshop

Students must successfully complete the three-quarter Critical Theory Workshop. This sequence is conceived as a reading group, normally conducted by a team of instructors, and developed with the input of all participants. Significant texts are discussed and analyzed in class; no term papers are required. (Students receive 0 units and In-progress grades for the fall and winter quarters; passing students receive 4 units and a Satisfactory grade for the spring quarter.

Advanced Critical Theory Requirement

Students must receive a grade of B or better in three HUMAN 270 courses offered under the supervision of the Critical Theory Committee. At least three such courses will be offered each year. With the approval of the Philosophy Department, these courses can be used to satisfy the tools of research requirement.

Mini-Seminar Requirement

Students must participate in two committee-sponsored mini-seminars (six–eight hours each) offered by visiting scholars on their ongoing research.

Research Paper Requirement

Students must complete a research paper under the guidance of a three-member committee, selected in consultation with the Director; at least one member must be from outside of the Philosophy Department. This paper may (but need not) be part of the portfolio or dissertation.

Upon completion of the emphasis requirements, a letter certifying that fact, signed by the Dean of Humanities and the Director of the Critical Theory Emphasis, will be added to the student’s dossier.

Optional Emphasis in Feminist Studies

A graduate emphasis in Feminist Studies also is available. Refer to the Gender and Sexuality Studies section of the Catalogue for information.

Faculty

Ermanno Bencivenga, Ph.D. University of Toronto, Professor of Philosophy; Humanities
Sven D. Bernecker, Ph.D. Stanford University, Professor of Philosophy
Annalisa Coliva, Ph.D. University of St. Andrews, Professor of Philosophy
Marcello Fiocco, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, Associate Professor of Philosophy
Margaret P. Gilbert, Ph.D. Oxford University, Abraham I. Melden Chair in Moral Philosophy and Professor of Philosophy
Sean Greenberg, Ph.D. Harvard University, Associate Professor of Philosophy
Jeffrey S. Helmreich, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Assistant Professor of Philosophy; School of Law
Aaron J. James, Ph.D. Harvard University, Professor of Philosophy
Stephen N. Jolley, Ph.D. Cambridge University, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Bonnie D. Kent, Ph.D. Columbia University, Professor of Philosophy; Religious Studies
Joseph F. Lambert, Ph.D. Michigan State University, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Alan Nelson, Ph.D. University of Illinois at Chicago, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Casey C. Perin, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Associate Professor of Philosophy
Duncan Pritchard, Ph.D. University of St. Andrews, Professor of Philosophy
Gerasimos X. Santas, Ph.D. Cornell University, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Karl Schafer, Ph.D. New York University, Professor of Philosophy
Martin Schwab, Ph.D. Heidelberg University, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy; Comparative Literature; European Languages and Studies
David W. Smith, Ph.D. Stanford University, Professor of Philosophy
Nicholas P. White, Ph.D. Harvard University, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Peter W. Woodruff, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy

Affiliate Faculty
Jeffrey A. Barrett, Ph.D. Columbia University, Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science; Philosophy
Jeremy Heis, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh, Associate Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science; Philosophy
Penelope J. Maddy, Ph.D. Princeton University, UCI Distinguished Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science; Mathematics; Philosophy (philosophy of mathematics and logic, meta-philosophy)
Brian Skyrms, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh, UCI Distinguished Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science; Economics; Philosophy
P. Kyle Stanford, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science; Philosophy
Kai Wehmeier, Ph.D. University of Münster, Director, Center for the Advancement of Logic, Its Philosophy, History, and Applications and Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science; Linguistics; Philosophy