

Philosophy, Minor

Philosophy is a skill, not merely a subject matter. This skill, critical thinking, is what illuminates the traditional subject matter of the discipline, topics like the nature of reality or of knowledge or of goodness or of meaning. But it does more than that: the same critical thinking skill enables one to question in such a way as to reveal the presuppositions of an issue, to discern the connections among those things relevant to that issue, and to recognize the consequences of these connections in light of further considerations. Critical thinking can be applied to issues well beyond those traditionally associated with philosophy—in fact, this sort of thinking can be applied to any issue one might find interesting or important (food, technology, social media, friendship, society, love, race, gender, etc.). Philosophy is, therefore, a most valuable and widely applicable skill.

The minor in Philosophy is for those considering majoring in Philosophy or for those who would like to develop their critical thinking skills while majoring in another discipline. Regardless of what one studies or what one's interests are, one will benefit from becoming a more engaged and critical thinker.

The minor in Philosophy comprises seven courses: three from a wide range of introductory courses and four from an even wider range of upper-division ones. There are many ways of designing the minor to fit with one's schedule and particular interests.

A. Select three of the following:	
PHILOS 1	Introduction to Philosophy
PHILOS 2	Puzzles and Paradoxes
PHILOS 3	Technology and Society
PHILOS 4	Introduction to Ethics
PHILOS 5	Contemporary Moral Problems
PHILOS 10	History of Ancient Philosophy
PHILOS 12	History of Modern Philosophy
PHILOS 13	History of Contemporary Philosophy
PHILOS 22	Introduction to Law and Society
PHILOS 30	Introduction to Symbolic Logic
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.