Philosophy

Faculty Office Bldg. (47), Room 37-B
805 756-2041

Department Chair, Tal Scriven
Stephen W. Ball        Devin Kuhn
Linda Bomstad        Stephen Lloyd-Moffett
D. Kenneth Brown       Todd Long
Francisco Fernflores    Joseph Lynch
Rachel Fernflores      Paul S. Miklowitz
Charles T. Hagen       Kendrick W. Walker

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Philosophy – **BA**, **Minor**

Religious Studies – **Minor**

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.

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 Electives. 20 units of 300-400 level philosophy courses. At least 12 units must be 400 level.