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Philosophy, B.A.

From Plato to Confucius to Nietzsche, to contemporary thinkers, humankind has been pondering the bigger questions of existence almost as long as humans have been around. Not only can you learn about what the great thinkers pondered, but who knows? Maybe you'll be able to contribute your own ideas to the mix. At the very least, as a Philosophy major, you'll become acquainted with, evaluate, and respond critically and imaginatively to important elements of human experience, and to do so in a scholarly manner with an eye toward appropriating the best for oneself and one's culture.

Experience Your Learning

There are plenty of activities that you can engage in as a Philosophy major that will provide you with practical experience in the area of exercising your mind.

Philosophy Club: Provides a venue for students to meet and interact with others who share a common interest in philosophy. The club is a place to expand, discuss, and potentially argue about philosophical topics. It is also a resource for those who are struggling to write a philosophical document; a refuge in which individuals can raise and discuss any philosophical questions they have pondered and a haven for those who seek edification in the fundamental questions of life.

The Humboldt Philosophy Forum: The forum covers topics of contemporary significance and aims to increase understanding of the diversity of ideas, values, and practices embodied by our culture.

Philosophy Colloquia: Brief talks given by a student or faculty member followed by informal discussion.

Did you know?

- Our campus is nestled in a spectacular setting of redwood forests, rivers, ocean beaches and mountain ranges. The physical beauty of the natural surroundings offers an environment exceptionally well suited to exploration and adventure, as well as peaceful contemplation and growth.
- According to a 2018 World Economic Forum post, Philosophy majors have a higher average salary potential than many other majors, with the biggest increase of any major in earning power during the first 10 years after graduation.
- Figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency show philosophy graduates are in growing demand from employers.



Academics & Options

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Philosophy Minors

Four areas of minor study are offered in the Philosophy program.

- **Asian Aspects:** Students focus on Eastern philosophy with specific courses in Chinese and Indian philosophies.
- **Ethics and Values:** Topics include moral controversies, reflections on the arts and the philosophy of sex and love.
- **Fundamental Aspects:** Focus is on logic, ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics.
- **History of Western Philosophy:** Survey of Western thought from ancient history through the 19th century.

Get Involved

Students can participate in philosophy conferences, both within a day's drive of Humboldt.

- **Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (Oregon):** The Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference is an annual, two-day conference held each spring, attracting students from across the country and internationally. Since 1997, more than 1,600 students from over 350 schools have participated in the conference.
- **Philosophy and Religious Studies Undergraduate Conference, CSU Bakersfield.**



Careers

Philosophy provides an excellent vehicle for the development of logical, critical, and creative reasoning, analytical reading and writing, and creative problem-solving skills. Since those skills are highly valued by employers and graduate/ professional programs alike, career opportunities for philosophy graduates exist in a variety of fields.

- Business
- Education
- Government
- Journalism
- Law
- Medicine
- Politics
- Non-Profit Organization
- Teaching
- Theology

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... My bachelor's degree in Philosophy has served me well. I feel that my written communication, critical thinking and 'outside of the box' perspective have come in very handy as I have navigated my way through the business world."

Shawna Joy Hernandez ('96, Philosophy)