

Why Study Philosophy at SF State?

People are surprised to learn that Philosophy majors are among the highest earners, have the most opportunities, and have some of the very highest admissions rates to graduate and professional programs. All this, plus philosophy is a tremendously interesting and fulfilling thing to study! You will enjoy and benefit from your studies both in college and long after graduation. You *can* have both a fun and satisfying college education and great career opportunities.

Be Employable: Study Philosophy

Philosophical skills are in high demand and easily transferred from one career to another. In the day and age of increasing automation, employers demand more critical thinkers. The most [recent study shows](#) that in 2015 only 5% of Philosophy majors were unemployed six months after graduation.*

Increase Your Pay Grade: Graduate with Philosophy Degree

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) found that the lifelong returns on a Philosophy major are [equivalent to those of an engineering degree](#). Study after study finds that philosophy majors are among the highest-earners by mid-career and late career. According to [PayScale.com](#), Philosophy graduates are paid 25% to 120% more than any other traditional major in the humanities.

A Better Path than Business Majors to Positions in Business Management

Philosophy majors score higher on the admissions exam for MBA programs than every business major. They [rank 4th](#) out of more than 30 majors, ahead of Economics (5th), Finance (14th), International Business (20th), Accounting (21st), Business Education (25th), Management (27th), and Marketing (29th).

[A disproportionate number of the world's best-known business leaders](#) and management are philosophy majors. [Many of the pioneers in Silicon Valley](#) credit their university studies of philosophy for their success.

* For links to the data and studies mentioned in this flyer, please see the faculty and volunteers at the Philosophy Department's table to request an electronic version.

Advanced Degrees

Philosophy majors have among the very highest admissions rates to professional graduate programs.

Philosophy BAs have [the highest overall score on the GRE](#).

They have [the highest scores on the LSAT](#) exam for Law School. Those with a special interest should consider the Philosophy B.A. with Emphasis in Philosophy and Law.

Philosophy majors have [far and away the highest acceptance rate to medical school](#) at 50%. Biology is just 35%. Chemistry is just 39%.

Big Questions

Ever wondered what gives meaning to life? Whether God exists? What it means to be a person? If you should fear death? Which personal choices and political policies are right or wrong?

These sorts of questions are the center of discussion and inquiry in every philosophy class. Participate in the great debate, find your own answers, and learn to find meaning in questions big and small.

Flexible Major

Both the Philosophy B.A. and the Philosophy & Religion B.A. are just 40 units, giving you plenty of room for double majoring, minoring, and study abroad. We don't have a rigid course sequence or stacked prerequisites like many other majors do.

A Variety of Fascinating Courses

Our flexible major allows you to pursue many of the areas of study that we offer through our courses. You can study theories of knowledge, religious experiences, Buddhism, feminism, law, political thought, mysticism, sex and sexuality, logic, consciousness, artificial intelligence, [and so much more](#). Students and their professors form reading groups on special topics.

Internships

We offer internships in law, public policy, publishing, health care, and education.

Get an early start on a prestigious Master's degree program

If you are interested in teaching philosophy at the college level, a B.A. in our program will position you for admission into SF State's prestigious M.A. program in philosophy, which is ranked among the [top eight nationwide](#). By planning with an advisor, you can arrange for as much as a semester of B.A. coursework to apply toward the Master's degree, allowing you to work toward your M.A. at a lower tuition rate, and finish your graduate degree early!

Start planning

For more details about this and the Philosophy Department's many other opportunities, make an appointment now with the Director of Undergraduate Advising, Justin Tiwald <jtiwald@sfsu.edu>. He enjoys advising students and know the program inside and out!