



Concentration in Moral, Legal and Social Philosophy for the Professions

What is it?

The Concentration in Moral, Legal and Social Philosophy for the Professions is a track within the Philosophy Major. In effect, it is an alternate version of the philosophy major, designed for students who are considering professional careers in such areas as law, medicine, business, public administration, or politics.

How is the Concentration different from the Major?

The Concentration is a way of majoring in philosophy, but it differs from the regular philosophy major in two ways. First there are more courses required in Social/Political Philosophy and Ethics, both applied and theoretical. Second, there is a required internship, which can be completed in an appropriate professional setting that matches your career goals.

Who is it for?

You should consider this Concentration if you are interested in a career that requires a graduate degree from a professional school, such as law school, business school, medical school, public administration programs, and many others.

However, not all challenging and rewarding careers require a graduate or professional degree! You should also consider this Concentration if you are interested in a career that does not require a graduate or professional degree. The internship can be a useful way to try out a career, and the Career Advisor can help you research and plan for such careers. We also strongly advise contacting and making use of the Career Center.

What are the benefits?

Like the traditional philosophy major, the Concentration is an excellent way to increase your critical thinking and analytical skills, to learn to communicate effectively both in writing and verbally, to improve your knowledge of intellectual history, and to learn how to think about ethics and justice. These are important skills for any career.

In addition, the Concentration gives you an opportunity to think about ethical and policy issues in the world around us, particularly in practical settings such as law, medicine, or business.

Finally, the Internship is an excellent way to explore potential careers, and to acquire experience and contacts that can help you get into the career of your choice.

Contact John K. Davis

Professor of Philosophy
Humanities 311F
johndavis@fullerton.edu

Prof. Davis is the Career Advisor for the Philosophy Department, and runs the Concentration. He can advise you, and he can help with planning for a career. He also oversees the internship.

Shouldn't I major in the field I intend to work in?

Not necessarily. Many of the most significant and rewarding career paths require graduate degrees from professional schools. Success in professional programs requires a broad intellectual foundation, sharp reasoning skills, and the ability to communicate effectively – all skills the Philosophy Major provides. These graduate programs do not expect you to have a baccalaureate degree in the field, but rather to be well-rounded and intellectually competent.

It's also possible for philosophy graduates to find a rewarding professional career even without a professional or graduate degree. We strongly recommend that you contact John K. Davis about how to use the Career Center effectively to learn more about possible careers and how to prepare for them.

What Courses are Required?

Argumentation and Writing Requirement (3 units): Phil 315 Philosophical Argument and Writing

Pre-1900 History Sequence (9 units)

Phil 290 Greek Philosophy

Phil 300 Rationalism and Empiricism

Phil 301 Kant and the 19th Century

Ethics, Social/Political Philosophy (3 units)

Phil 345 Social and Political Philosophy

Phil 410 Ethical Theory

Phil 355 Philosophy of Law

Phil 382 Marx and Marxism

Applied Ethics, Social/Political Philosophy (3 units)

Phil 312 Business and Professional Ethics

Phil 313 Environmental Ethics

Phil 314 Medical Ethics

Phil 320 Contemporary Moral Issues

Phil 377 Philosophical Approaches to Race, Class, and Gender

Core Topics in Philosophy (6 units)

Phil 303 Intro to Philosophy of Science

Phil 323 Existentialism

Phil 348 Philosophy of Religion

Phil 380 Analytical Philosophy: 1900 to 1950

Phil 381 Analytical Philosophy: 1950 to Present

Phil 383 Postmodernism

Phil 420 Metaphysics

Phil 430 Epistemology

Phil 440 Philosophy of Mind

Capstone course (3 units): Phil 450 Normative Theory and Public Affairs

Internship (3 units): Phil 493 Senior Internship in Ethics and Society

Electives: 6 units of philosophy courses that have not been used to fulfill other requirements.

NOTE: no more than six lower division units may count toward the major.



What steps should I take first?

1. Contact the Career Advisor. Make sure the Career Advisor has current contact information for you, including your email address. See the Career Advisor annually.

2. There are certain classes recommended for the students on this track.

- If you have not taken your critical thinking requirement yet, you should consider taking Phil 110, Critical Thinking, or Phil 115, Logic. We recommend taking logic, either instead of critical thinking or in addition to it, but logic is not required.
- Your earliest courses in the major should be Phil 290, Greek Philosophy, and Phil 315, Philosophical Argument and Writing.