

**Degrees and Certificates Offered:**

- Philosophy: Associate in Arts for Transfer (A.A.-T.), Certificate of Achievement

The Philosophy discipline offers learners a unique opportunity to take a variety of courses from different philosophical perspectives, yet all rich in the voices of global cultures and religions. Philosophy concerns the investigation of the fundamental questions of the human experience, such as “Is knowledge possible?”, “Do we have free will?”, “What is the meaning of life?” to “Is social justice possible?” In attempting to answer these questions, the discipline of Philosophy has provided the foundation of many other fields of inquiry, from psychology to sociology, law, and even business. At the core, Philosophy develops critical thinking skills, but in applying those skills, learners realize that philosophical inquiry has spanned the development of science, the birth of civilizations, religions, and ethical debates about when life begins and ends, principles of justice, environmental issues, animals rights, global warming, immigration, and even ideas about art, music, and the economy. Ultimately, Philosophy provides a learner pursuing any major an opportunity to enhance critical thinking skills while engaging in the analysis of arguments and theories about issues that has spanned the ages and still affect contemporary life.

Career opportunities for Philosophy majors:

Learners who have taken Philosophy courses are good candidates for jobs requiring liberal arts education. Employers often look for people who can solve problems and can write and think critically. These are skills that philosophy enhances. Examples of careers include: communications, education, journalism, law, management and business, and politics.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** After completing Philosophy courses, a student will be able to:

- analyze and critique an argument.
- effectively argue in support of an opinion.
- write an argumentative essay.
- define key terms of philosophical vocabulary relevant to the course.
- distinguish different areas of philosophy.
- understand some of the diverse assumptions and the values and attitudes that shape our lives.



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## Classical and Contemporary World Philosophies and Religions

### *Certificate of Proficiency*

PHIL 1 Introduction to Philosophy (3 units)

Choose 9 units from the list below:

PHIL 3A Ethical Theory (3 units)

PHIL 3B Contemporary Ethics (3 units)

PHIL 6 World Religions (3 units)

PHIL 9 Philosophy of Religion (3 units)

PHIL 23 Independent Study (1-3 units)

Total units required for Certificate of Proficiency: 12 units

## PHILOSOPHY

Associate Degree  
for Transfer™

## Philosophy

## A.A.-T Degree

The Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer degree is designed to prepare students for a seamless transfer into the CSU system to complete a baccalaureate degree in Philosophy.

Philosophy is the study of basic and fundamental issues, such as those concerning reality, knowledge, morality, and truth. Philosophers ask questions like: Do we have free will? What do I know? What is the nature of truth? How do I know I'm not a brain in a vat? Is there a universal morality? Does God exist? What distinguishes philosophy from other disciplines is its methodology. A philosopher's methodology is systematic and relies heavily upon rational argument. The process demands rigorous, analytic, and critical thinking. The benefits of which include resolving confusion, unmasking assumptions, highlighting distinctions, and offering clarification. Courses in the Gavilan Philosophy Program are designed to transfer to four-year institutions and to prepare philosophy majors for upper-division coursework. Specifically, this degree is intended for students transferring to a California State University program. A degree in philosophy can lead to a career teaching and doing academic research in philosophy, but it also equips one with the writing, thinking, and problem-solving skills important for many careers, including the fields of law, business, politics, medicine and others.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** After completing an Associate in Arts in Philosophy degree for Transfer (AA-T), a student will be qualified to transfer to a California State University program and be able to:

- ▶ demonstrate knowledge of the basic rules and principles of logic, especially the skill of identifying, analyzing, and evaluating arguments.
- ▶ demonstrate knowledge of the perennial questions, problems and theories in the major areas of philosophy (metaphysics, epistemology, value theory, logic), including the arguments and views of the figures in the history of philosophy who address them.
- ▶ demonstrate proficiency in philosophical writing, which includes presenting and supporting a philosophical thesis and articulating and responding to counterarguments in a way that is clear, concise, accurate, precise, thorough, coherent, and well-organized.
- ▶ demonstrate the virtues of a critical thinker, including being open-minded, unbiased, intellectually modest, truth-seeking, imaginative, appropriately skeptical, free-thinking, consistent, and empathetic.
- ▶ demonstrate knowledge of the philosophical views of groups who are unrepresented, disenfranchised, undervalued, and nonwestern.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Select 2 (6 units)

- PHIL 2 Introduction to Logic (3 units)  
 PHIL 1 Introduction to Philosophy (3 units) **OR**  
 PHIL 3A Ethics (3 units)

LIST A: Select 1 (3 units)

- ANY COURSE FROM ABOVE LIST NOT ALREADY USED (3 units)  
 PHIL 7A History of Philosophy: Ancient to Medieval Times (3 units)  
 PHIL 7B History of Philosophy: Renaissance to Modern Periods (3 units)

LIST B: Select 2 (6 units)

- ANY COURSE NOT USED IN LIST A (3 units)  
 HIST 7A History of Western Civilization (3 units)  
 HIST 7B History of Western Civilization (3 units)

LIST C: Select 1 (3 units)

- ANY COURSE NOT USED IN LIST A or B (3 units)  
 PHIL 9 Philosophy of Religions (3 units)  
 PHIL 3B Contemporary Moral Issues (3 units)  
 PHIL 6 Comparative Religions (3 units)  
 PHIL 15 Asian Philosophies (3 units)

Total units in the major: 18 units

Total units that may be double-counted: 9 units CSU / 6 IGETC:

Completion of CSU GE Breadth: 39 units or IGETC:37 units

Electives: 12 units CSU / 11 units IGETC

Units for degree: 60 units

**ALL ADT DEGREES REQUIRE:**

1. Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
  - A. The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education – Breadth Requirements.
  - B. A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.
2. Attainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs also require that students must earn a C or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis. A "P" (Pass) grade is an acceptable grade for courses in the major.