

PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED

SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES,
HUMANITIES AND ARTS



WHY APPLY TO PHILOSOPHY, B.A.?

Philosophy is one of the oldest academic disciplines, covering topics of perennial human interest, such as what it means to live a good life, as well as topics that provide useful skills, such as ethics and logic. Philosophy graduates in the United States have historically had success in terms of both salary and further education, with philosophy majors earning median mid-career salaries of over \$80,000 and getting higher admittance rates to law school and medical school than other majors.¹ While philosophy has typically attracted a narrow demographic, in recent years it has launched a campaign to diversify its ranks, putting students at UC Merced in a position to help change the future of the discipline. We think this is part of the reason the major is “back on the rise” among undergraduates.

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PHILOSOPHY, B.A.



The philosophy program at UC Merced specializes in applied, interdisciplinary, and socially engaged work, with special emphasis in the philosophy of cognitive science and applied ethics. Many of the philosophers at UC Merced draw on scientific evidence, in some cases using mathematical or computational models in their research. Most are engaged in teaching and research across multiple disciplines. For example, philosophy faculty have taught courses listed or cross-listed in cognitive science (Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Ethics and Technology), mathematics (Mathematical Logic), and literature (Philosophy and Literary Theory).

In terms of socially engaged work, current faculty have projects on “cognitive science and the common good,” data ethics, environmental ethics, philosophy in prisons, and other topics of relevance to our geographic region. Further, current faculty are also actively engaged in research on the epistemic crisis in the United States with a particular focus on interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and ameliorating this complex problem.

The Wall Street Journal - Salary Increase by Major

https://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees_that_Pay_you_Back-sort.html

Classics, Philosophy majors do best when it comes to getting into law school

<https://www.nationaljurist.com/prelaw/classics-philosophy-majors-do-best-when-it-comes-getting-law-school>

Major Anxiety - If you think biochemistry is your ticket into medical school, think again.

<https://philosophy.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2013/10/Major-Anxiety-1.pdf>

The Philosophy major is (kind of) back on the rise

<https://dailynous.com/2020/10/09/philosophy-major-kind-back-rise-guest-post-eric-schwitzgebel/>

Internship Opportunities

- ▶ Educational
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Policy
- ▶ Junior analyst

Job/Career Prospects

- ▶ The legal profession
- ▶ Business management
- ▶ Information Technology
- ▶ Government Service
- ▶ Public Policy Analysis and Development
- ▶ Teaching At The Primary, Secondary, and University Levels
- ▶ Medicine
- ▶ Social Work



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Kaeda Saberwing

B.A.

Kaeda Saberwing is a graduate dual major in both Philosophy and Sociology who will be graduating this May from UC Merced. Her thesis is on climate change and the different relationships to land in Western and Indigenous philosophy. She has been offered a funded position in the University of Minnesota's philosophy Ph.D. program.

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