

“Learn By Doing” This Philosophy Department has unique courses that seek to implement this Cal Poly motto. The *Clinical Ethics Practicum* is a hospital-based internship supervised by a clinical ethicist and designed to provide students with first-hand experience of moral dilemmas in patient care. The *Ethics Bowl* course prepares students for case-based oral competition addressing contemporary ethical controversies.

Success of Cal Poly Pomona

Philosophy Majors: The Philosophy Department continues to place its majors in top-quality law school programs. Graduates have been accepted at such schools as Stanford, UCLA, Berkeley, Georgetown, Washington U.-St. Louis, Emory, Gonzaga, UC Davis, UC Hastings, Lewis & Clark, Ohio State, and the universities of Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Arizona.

Programs:

The Philosophy Department at Cal Poly Pomona offers both major and minor programs. Courses within the Law and Society Emphasis examine the practical as well as the theoretical dimensions of legal, moral, and policy issues. Topics include contemporary problems in the environment, biomedical research, clinical medicine, race and gender studies, and education.

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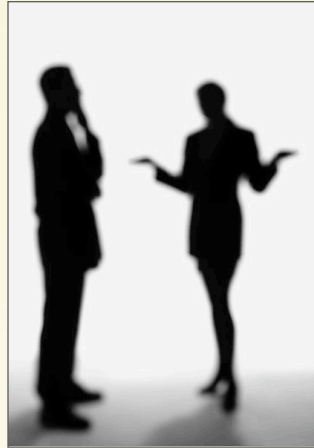
LAW AND SOCIETY EMPHASIS IN PHILOSOPHY

“The methods of analytic philosophy and of legal reasoning--the making of careful distinctions and definitions, the determination of logical consistency through the construction and examination of hypothetical cases, the bringing of buried assumptions to the surface, the breaking up of a problem into manageable components, the meticulous exploration of the implications of an opponent's arguments--are mainly the same.”

-Richard A. Posner, Judge,
Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals
and noted legal scholar

In a world where it is increasingly difficult to predict what specialties may be in demand, students are wise to cultivate basic skills that are “transferable”—usable in a diverse range of careers. The Law and Society Emphasis in Philosophy at Cal Poly Pomona imparts the skills essential to a wide range of professions. Many employers are recognizing as never before the value in being able to listen carefully, to analyze a problem objectively, to organize information efficiently, and to communicate concisely. These skills easily translate into careers in teaching, law, publishing, public service, technical writing, social works, and many others.

Philosophy and Careers in Law



Philosophy is a particularly valuable preparation for careers in law or government. Attorneys and other legal professionals must be able to analyze and understand complicated written documents and legal opinions, evaluate the reasoning of an opponent’s case, and write with clarity and persuasiveness. The American Bar Association lists as the most important core skills of a successful lawyer:

- Analytical/Problem solving abilities
- Ability to read critically
- Ability to write clearly and convincingly

These are just the skills at which philosophy students excel, and there is evidence of their success.

Philosophy provides students with the tools they need critically to examine their own lives as well as the world in which they live. Philosophy students are encouraged to examine assumptions, to analyze and clarify complex concepts and problems, to evaluate answers, and to appreciate and strive for well-argued positions. Philosophy students not only learn about great thoughts, they learn to think well and for themselves. Few disciplines are better preparation for legal study.

“Law schools will respect your pursuit of subjects you find challenging. This is especially true if the courses you take are known to be more difficult, such as philosophy, engineering, and science” (emphasis added).

-American Bar Association

Philosophy and the LSAT. Multiple studies over many years have shown that philosophy majors substantially outscore all other business, education, and liberal arts majors on the LSAT exam. According to data collected by the Law School Admissions Council, philosophy students have a mean score of 157.4 on the LSAT. Philosophy majors also outscore all other social and natural science majors, except mathematics and physics