



OPT *for a* LIFE EXAMINED.

The two-part mission of the Philosophy Program at Chapman is 1) to help students to reflect deeply and independently on enduring philosophical questions while learning from the insights of great philosophical thinkers past and present; and 2) to equip students with useful intellectual virtues and reasoning skills that will form a strong foundation for future careers and for living ethical, meaningful lives.

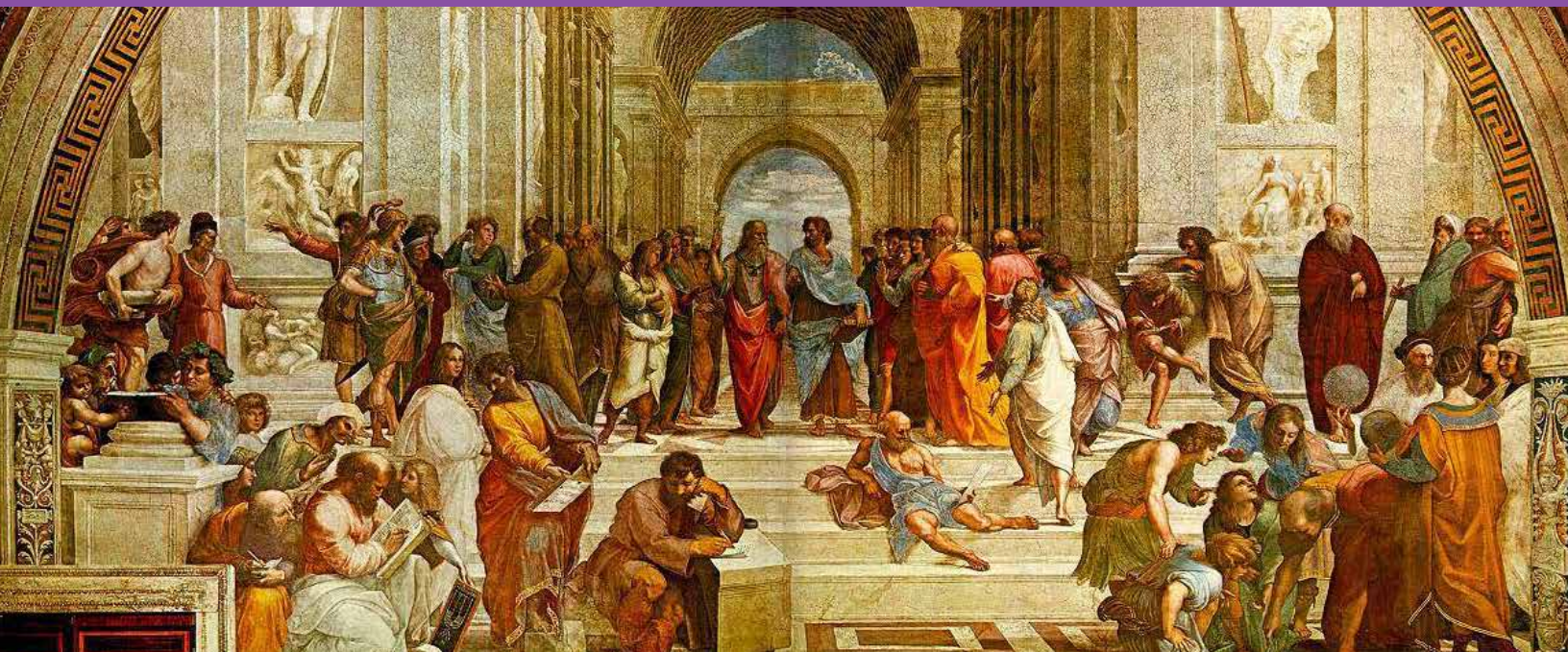
The Department at Chapman offers a wide range of courses in philosophy. Courses in the history of philosophy examine the ideas of pivotal thinkers throughout history. Courses in ethics involve inquiries into important moral issues, including those involving medicine, business, and the environment. Other courses focus on formal

theories of good and bad forms of reasoning, such as logic and game theory. Finally, many courses examine a wide variety of fundamental philosophical questions in epistemology and metaphysics: Do humans have free will? What is the nature of mind and consciousness? What is knowledge? Does God exist? What is the nature of scientific explanation? What implications does modern physics have for how we should view our place and the universe?

Professors in philosophy at Chapman are experts in their fields, specializing in applied ethics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, and the philosophical foundations of physics.

*As a writer for The Times of London put it in a recent article,
philosophy is “the ultimate transferrable work skill”.*

▼ Raphael's painting, “The School of Athens,” (below) depicts several famous ancient philosophers, including Aristotle and Plato in the center. Philosophers at Chapman study many of the most influential thinkers in recorded history.



Integrated

Curriculum

The core curriculum is designed to give students a broad knowledge of philosophical ideas and to develop skills in philosophical reasoning. History of philosophy courses allow students to engage with some of the most important ideas and thinkers in recorded history. The logic requirement gives students the technical tools they need in order to formulate and evaluate arguments. Distribution requirements in ethics and metaphysics/epistemology insure that philosophy students have a comprehensive knowledge of the discipline. Finally, the Junior/Senior Seminar provides students with an opportunity to work closely with a professor to produce a first-rate research project. Throughout the curriculum, students take advantage of Chapman's small class sizes and opportunities for personal interaction with faculty and peers.

Visiting Lecture Series

The Philosophy Department hosts "Philosophy Talks," a regular speaker series open to students and faculty. Recent topics have included the ethics of mass incarceration, obesity in the media, the epistemology of disagreement, food ethics and human rights.

Student Organizations

The Chapman Philosophy Club regularly hosts a variety of speakers and events. (See <https://www.facebook.com/chapmanphilosophyclub> for details). Many club members are also members of Phi Sigma Tau, the international philosophy honor society. Chapman philosophy students also have the opportunity to participate in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, a national competition in which students work in teams to debate important ethical issues.



Chapman University Philosophy Club

Interdisciplinary

The curriculum at Chapman reflects the interdisciplinary nature of philosophical inquiry. Courses in philosophy of mind, for example, examine fundamental questions that emerge from psychology and neuroscience. Courses in philosophy of science, literature, law, and religion, explore fundamental questions arising in these disciplines. Courses on business, medical, and environmental ethics offer students an opportunity to explore ethical dimensions of different fields.

Many philosophy majors choose to double-major, finding that their study of philosophy enhances their other major, and vice versa. For example, some philosophy majors are also film students, who claim that their philosophical studies make them better screenwriters and directors.

The Department has special strengths in several areas of philosophy that fit well with many of Chapman's premier programs. With Chapman's world-class researchers in quantum physics, for example, we have co-organized conferences examining the implications of physics for questions about free will and time. We collaborate with Chapman's Economic Science Institute (which includes Nobel Laureate Vernon Smith) on an interdisciplinary program called "Humanomics," in which students explore questions at the intersection of economics, philosophy, politics, and literature. Our Department's strength in practical ethics also makes studying philosophy a natural choice for students who are also enrolled in Chapman's excellent programs in business, medicine, environmental science, or pre-law.

▼ *Michael Pace, Associate Professor of Philosophy, leads discussion in a course on philosophy of science.*



Individual

What Can I Do with a Philosophy Major?

Philosophy majors face a common misperception that philosophy is less “practical” than other majors. However, Chapman philosophy students are quite successful in pursuing a wide range of careers, including business, law, medicine, journalism, and computer programming, just to name a few. There are several reasons why majoring in philosophy offers excellent training for a wide range of careers. First, majoring in philosophy develops skills of critical thinking, including the ability to understand issues from multiple perspectives and envision creative solutions to problems. These skills are highly marketable. If one can reason and write clearly about abstract and controversial matters like the existence of God or the nature of free will, then one will have a relatively easy time reasoning and writing about more straightforward matters. As a writer for *The Times of London* (August 15, 1998) notes, philosophy is “the ultimate transferrable work skill”.

Second, philosophy majors tend to be well-rounded individuals, able to converse and reason about a wide range of topics. These attributes can give philosophers an edge in a tight job market and in gaining admission to professional programs in medicine, business, and law.

▼ *Members of the Chapman Philosophy Club gather on campus for a film screening and discussion.*



Philosophy as Preparation for Grad School

Majoring in philosophy is excellent preparation for graduate studies in a wide range of fields. According to several recent studies, philosophy majors...

- ...outperform all majors (tying economics) on the graduate entrance exam for law school (the LSAT).
- ... outperform even business majors (by 15%!) on the graduate exam for an MBA (the GMAT).
- ... outperform all other disciplines on the Verbal and Analytic/Writing sections of the GRE.
- ... outperform all humanities disciplines on the Mathematics section of the GRE.
- ... have a higher acceptance rate to medical school (over 50%) than most other majors (including biology, which has an acceptance rate of 35%).

In short, philosophy is an excellent choice of majors, for practical as well as intrinsic reasons.

International

Global Studies

All Chapman students are encouraged to participate in study abroad programs in almost every part of the world. Studying overseas provides a unique opportunity which can open up fresh perspectives on international, political, economic and social issues, interpersonal relationships and ultimate career choices. Please visit: <http://studyabroad.chapman.edu> for more information.

▼ *Gene Bauer, president and founder of Farm Sanctuary, discusses the ethics of factory farming as part of “Philosophy Talks,” which brings guests to campus to discuss big ideas.*



The Chapman University application requires you to:

1. Submit your Application:

The Common Application, the Chapman University Supplemental Application and a \$65 application fee — through The Common Application website. (We will receive your completed application only after you submit all three of these components.)

2. Request Letter of Recommendation:

Ask someone who knows you well, a core-subject teacher, employer, or clergy member, to write a letter of recommendation using the Teacher Evaluation form in The Common Application or send the letter on his or her letterhead to Chapman University Office of Admission.

3. Secondary School Report Form:

Ask your school counselor to complete the Secondary School Report form through The Common Application.

4. Request Official High School Transcripts

to be sent to Chapman University Office of Admission. To be considered “official,” transcripts must remain in the envelope that’s been sealed by your high school records office or sent electronically by your high school through Docufile or Naviance.

5. Ensure all SAT or ACT scores are sent

to Chapman University by the testing company. We require results from all your testing attempts; please do not exclude any scores. Please note: The last acceptable testing date for Early Action consideration is the early November offering; we highly recommend submitting scores from the October test date or prior to ensure your file completes on time. (Chapman’s SAT test code is 4047; our ACT code is 0210.)

6. Send official college transcripts

(if applicable) in the envelope sealed by the college records office or have them sent electronically by your institution’s records office. We require official transcripts for all college course work you’ve attempted.

Please visit or contact us at:

Web: chapman.edu/wilkinson/philosophy

Phone: 714-997-6636

Office: Wilkinson Hall 229



**Wilkinson College of
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences**

BA in Philosophy Curriculum:

Core Requirements (12 Credits)

PHIL 310	From Socrates to Aquinas
PHIL 311	Descartes to Kierkegaard
PHIL 398	Junior/Senior Seminar

(one of the following)

PHIL 203	Logic
PHIL 300	Symbolic Logic

Metaphysics and Epistemology (6 Credits)

(two of the following)

PHIL 102	Philosophy through Science Fiction
PHIL 125	Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 305	Metaphysics
PHIL 306	Games and Decisions
PHIL 309	Religion, Knowledge and Evil
PHIL 320	Belief, Truth, and Knowledge
PHIL 321	Philosophy of Science
PHIL 322a	Philosophical Theology
PHIL 340	Philosophy of Mind

Ethics (6 Credits)

(two of the following)

PHIL 104	Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 120	Global Ethics and Religion
PHIL 303	Environmental Ethics
PHIL 304	Multicultural Ethics
PHIL 304a	Global Justice
PHIL 304b	Food Ethics
PHIL 314	Medical Ethics
PHIL 316	Business and Professional Ethics
PHIL 318	Political and Legal Philosophy
PHIL 319	Philosophy of Women/Women of Color
PHIL 323	Philosophy through Literature

Electives (6 Credits)

2 philosophy courses, either listed above or from other courses listed in the catalog

30 UNITS total

#5

Regional Universities West

#3

Best Undergraduate Teaching

