Concentration in Law and Philosophy
A specialized new path for students interested in a law career

Specialized Ethics Course Offerings
- PHIL 326 Topics in Law and Philosophy
- PHIL 329 Law and Justice
- PHIL 320 Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 321 Moral Philosophy
- PHIL 322 History of Ethics
- PHIL 327 Global Health Ethics
- PHIL 328 Environmental Philosophy
- PHIL 421W Ethical Theories

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Contact philmgr@sfu.ca

sfu.ca/philosophy/law.html
Philosophy graduates can make great lawyers

Students of philosophy are trained in analytical thinking and logical argumentation, skills central to flourishing in law school and a legal career. They practice designing the strongest arguments and anticipating objections and counter-arguments. They learn to consider fraught questions dispassionately, without preconceptions. They are unintimidated by impenetrable texts, and they develop a real sense of perspective. When you major in Philosophy, you also delve into many contemporary ethical and legal issues.

Philosophy graduates consistently score more highly in the LSAT than graduates of almost any other degree program. This new credential can help your law school application stand out.

What else can a Philosophy degree do for me?

So Philosophy graduates are well-equipped to be admitted to law school, but where else can a philosophy degree take you?

Visit www.sfu.ca/philosophy/next.html. You will learn that the return on investment in a philosophy major is comparable to that of an engineering major, that almost all philosophy majors find employment straight away, and that the salaries earned by people with philosophy degrees are very solid. The lifetime earnings gains of philosophy graduates outstrip those of other arts and humanities degree holders impressively.

Why do philosophy majors show such success? Partly because they are (and employers know that they are) the best at verbal reasoning and the best at analytical writing—stronger than holders of any other sort of degree. As with the LSAT, Philosophy majors are the strongest performers on the GRE, a standardized test used to assess applicants to graduate school in most disciplines. Philosophy majors have a great advantage in applying for graduate studies, which are now key to many careers.

On the GMAT, a test for applicants to graduate school in management and business, philosophy graduates also get higher scores than any other arts/humanities or social studies degree holders.

Few degrees are directly linked to a specific career path. The sorts of skills a Philosophy degree will equip you with are highly valuable in many professions—while changing careers several times is becoming the norm.

Mean LSAT scores by undergraduate major, 2015/16

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Source: Law School Admission Council, Undergraduate Majors of Applicants to ABA-Approved Law Schools 2015-16

Course requirements

For full course listings and requirements, please check the Academic Calendar online.

Philosophy Minor: There are no specific lower division requirements. Students complete at least 18 upper division Philosophy units including both of PHIL 329 – Law and Justice (3) and PHIL 326 Topics in Law and Philosophy (3), and at least two specified Ethics courses.

Philosophy Major: Students complete these 15 lower division units: PHIL 150 – Great Works in the History of Philosophy (3), PHIL 110 – Introduction to Logic & Reasoning (3), PHIL 201 – Epistemology (3), PHIL 203 – Metaphysics (3), and PHIL 221 – Ethical Theory (3).

Students complete at least 30 Philosophy upper division units, including both of PHIL 329 – Law and Justice (3) and PHIL 326 Topics in Law and Philosophy (3), at least two specified Ethics courses, at least two specified Epistemology, Metaphysics or History of Philosophy courses, and at least one 400-level course in Philosophy.

A training in philosophy nurtures a capacity for creativity and innovation that distinguishes philosophy graduates from their peers and is actively sought out by employers.