

Faculty

Kyle Banick (PhD, California Irvine):
Phenomenology, Philosophical Logic,
Existentialism, Early Analytic Philosophy,
Philosophy of Language

Patrick Dieveney (PhD, Arizona):
Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Mathematics,
Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic

Marie Jayasekera (PhD, Michigan):
Early Modern Philosophy, Applied
Metaphysics, Moral Psychology, Political
Philosophy, Ethics

Keith Kaiser (PhD, California Los Angeles):
Applied Metaphysics

Alysha Kassam (PhD, California Irvine LPS):
Applied Ethics, Social Philosophy, Philosophy
of Science, Political Philosophy

Lawrence Nolan (PhD, California Irvine):
Early Modern Philosophy, Metaphysics,
Philosophy of Religion

Amanda Parris (PhD, DePaul):
Continental Philosophy, Social Philosophy,
Political Philosophy

Max Rosenkrantz (PhD, Texas):
Ancient Philosophy, Early Analytic Philosophy,
Marx, Political Philosophy, Ethics

Amanda Trefethen (PhD, California Irvine):
Philosophy of Law

John Vella (PhD, California San Diego):
Ancient Philosophy

Charles Wallis (PhD, Minnesota):
Epistemology, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Nellie Wieland (PhD, California San Diego):
Philosophy of Literature, Philosophy of Law,
Philosophy of Language, Social Philosophy,
Ethics

Cory Wright (PhD, California San Diego):
Philosophy of Science, Cognitive Science,
Metaphysics, Early Analytic Philosophy,
Philosophy of Neuroscience

Wayne Wright (PhD, Temple):
Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Mind,
Philosophy of Neuroscience, Kant

Contacts

Director, Philosophy Honors Program:
Cory Wright (MHB 909)
562-985-4331
cory.wright@csulb.edu

Chair & Undergraduate Advisor, Philosophy Department:
Nellie Wieland (MHB 917)
562-985-4331
nellie.wieland@csulb.edu

Office Manager, Philosophy Department:
Abigali Judge (MHB 917)
562-985-4331
abigali.judge@csulb.edu

Graduate Advisor, Philosophy Department:
Max Rosenkrantz (MHB 902)
562-985-4331
max.rosenkrantz@csulb.edu

Director, Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies:
Ilan Mitchell Smith (MHB 506)
562-985-4247
ilan.mitchellsmith@csulb.edu

Director, Legal Studies:
Jason Whitehead (SSPA 2257)
562-985-4712
jason.whitehead@csulb.edu

On-Line University Catalog and Schedule:
[http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/
catalog/current/cla/philosophy](http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/cla/philosophy)

Honors in Philosophy



Department of Philosophy
McIntosh Humanities Building 917
Cal State Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90840-2408

Departmental Office Hours:
M-F: 8:00am-1:00pm

[http://www.cla.csulb.edu/departments/
philosophy/](http://www.cla.csulb.edu/departments/philosophy/)

Honors in Philosophy

The Honors Program in Philosophy provides qualified undergraduates with a unique opportunity to do advanced one-on-one research with a tenured faculty member. The program is a year-long sequence with two curricular components:

- *PHIL498H: Undergraduate Honors Thesis*: completed in both fall and spring terms
- *PHIL497H: Undergraduate Honors Seminar*: completed in the spring term

In the thesis course, students develop their project with their faculty supervisor. In the seminar, students meet with the Director of the program and other Honors students to discuss and refine their research and to present their final theses. Students also showcase their work in the Department's annual 'Philosophy Day' symposia which occur at the end of each spring and fall.

Eligibility

Students should apply to the Honors Program. To be eligible, applicants should satisfy the following conditions:

- Completion of all required lower-division courses in the major (*PHIL203, 204, 270*)
- Completion of at least 9 units of upper-division Philosophy courses (at least 6 units at CSULB)
- A minimum 3.50 GPA in the major, as well as a 3.00 cumulative GPA at CSULB.

Exceptions to these requirements may be made in some cases. For more information, please discuss your individual situation with the Director of the Honors Program (Prof. Cory Wright) or your faculty supervisor.

How the Program Works

After determining that eligibility requirements for the Honors Program are satisfied, students should arrange to meet with a faculty member to inquire whether she or he is both willing and available to serve as the supervisor of the student's thesis project. (Please consult faculty areas of research specialization and teaching competence, e.g., as listed on this pamphlet.) Note that the project need not be worked out in any detail in order to secure a thesis

advisor. Often, thesis projects emerge only after numerous rounds of meetings and discussions.

Upon agreeing to work with a student as the supervisor of their Honors project, the faculty member will request that a permit be issued for the student to enroll. Upon being issued a permit, the student must enroll in *PHIL498H* in fall and spring (3 units each semester), and in *PHIL497H* in spring (3 units). Students are expected to meet with their faculty supervisor, at will, over the span of two semesters to work on the thesis.

Ideally, students begin in the fall term, and determine with their faculty supervisor what to read and how to commence the student's thesis project. The student's work over the fall term is primarily to complete the background research and write up the results of the course of study. The resulting research eventually forms the core of the final Honors thesis. In the spring term, the student continues working with their thesis supervisor while composing and revising their Honors thesis. Additionally, the student will register for the Honors Program Seminar. The purpose of the Seminar is to bring all the students currently writing Honors theses together as a cohort in order for students to get feedback on their work and to gain experience presenting their work to others. The final Honors Thesis is due at the end of Spring Semester.

Honors students with fall graduations require an alternative schedule and agenda, which includes enrollment in both *PHIL497H* and *PHIL498H* in spring, and then *PHIL498H* again in fall to complete their thesis project.

Students who have been admitted to the Honors program and have successfully completed these two requirements will graduate with Honors in Philosophy.

Benefits

Participating in the Honors Program is a unique opportunity. Students gain experience in completing a substantial research project on an advanced topic with one-on-one mentorship—normally with a tenure-stream faculty mentor. The Department of Philosophy hosts two 'Philosophy Day' symposia, in which honors students are invited to present their research. Faculty who work with students on

such projects are in an excellent position to write detailed letters of recommendation for graduate admissions to universities and law schools. And students who participate in the program increase their chances of admission to top-tier graduate programs in Philosophy, Law, Social Sciences, etc. In part, this is because the program also helps students practice their hand at writing advanced philosophy, giving presentations, and beginning a résumé or vita. Honors students are also primed to compete more seriously at the college and university levels for various commencement awards.

Additionally, the Department offers multiple scholarships each year to outstanding undergraduate majors and graduate students. Because of their advanced work, honors students have an advantage in competing for them. For more information, including applications and deadlines, see the Department website.

Lastly, students who complete the program will receive a special certificate signed by the Department Chairperson, and will have "Honors in Philosophy" appear on their diplomas at commencement ceremonies.

Student Activities

All students are welcome to join the Student Philosophy Association (SPA), which sponsors events for students throughout the year, guest speakers, and work-in-progress sessions for students. Student in the Honors Program are frequently active members of the SPA.

Some honors students have gone on to deliver papers at professional meetings, including the *American Philosophical Association*, the *Society for Exact Philosophy*, and the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, as well as regional and national conferences such as the *Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality* and the *Southern California Philosophy Conference*.

Travel support is available for students from the Associated Students (ASI), Student Life & Development (SLD); other sources of funding from the University, College, or Department are possible. Philosophy at Long Beach State is especially keen to support honors students in their activities.