

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS, B.A.

Program Details

Department: Philosophy
 Modality: In-Person
 Concentrations: n/a
 Semester Hours: 52

The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) major at Loyola Marymount University is designed to equip students to analyze and address complex societal challenges through the focused and integrated study of philosophy, political science, and economics.

By engaging the ethical foundations of governance and economic systems, students develop the ability to think critically about public institutions, policy decisions, and global economic dynamics. The program fosters strong analytical, problem-solving, and communication skills, enabling students to assess issues such as inequality, representation, economic stability, and social responsibility from multiple perspectives.

Rooted in LMU's Jesuit mission, the PPE major emphasizes ethical reasoning, cultural awareness, and a commitment to social justice and the common good. Through interdisciplinary coursework and global engagement, students gain a broad understanding of diverse value systems and the interconnected nature of contemporary challenges.

Graduates are prepared to lead with integrity and compassion in public service, policy, law, business, and other professional or academic fields, bringing thoughtful, informed leadership to the communities they serve.

The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) major seeks to develop ethically grounded, analytically prepared, and globally aware leaders prepared to address complex public challenges through interdisciplinary inquiry and service-oriented engagement.

1. Ethical Reasoning and Decision-Making

Students will critically analyze and apply ethical theories to complex political, economic, and social issues, demonstrating a commitment to ethical public service.

2. Interdisciplinary Integration

Students will integrate knowledge and methods from philosophy, political science, and economics to develop comprehensive and informed solutions to public policy and service challenges.

3. Understanding Public Institutions

Students will demonstrate knowledge of key institutions and structures that shape political and economic choices, policies, and societal outcomes.

4. Commitment to Public Service

Students will cultivate a sustained commitment to public service, reflected in meaningful community engagement and civic participation.

5. Effective Communication

Students will develop strong oral and written communication skills, enabling them to clearly articulate ideas, advocate for policies, and engage diverse audiences in the public sphere.

6. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

Students will employ critical thinking to evaluate real-world issues and use interdisciplinary approaches to propose innovative and practical solutions.

7. Global and Cultural Awareness

Students will demonstrate proficiency in a second language and an understanding of global cultures, preparing them to engage effectively in international and multicultural contexts.

8. Jesuit Values and Leadership

Students will embody Jesuit values such as social justice, compassion, and service to others, demonstrating ethical, reflective leadership oriented toward the common good.

Major Requirements

At entry to the University, students may declare the major or minor through the Office of Admission. LMU students wishing thereafter to declare the major or minor must meet with the chair. The chair will ordinarily sign the student's Change of Program petition, provided the student meets certain academic standards that include having a minimum GPA of 2.0 (C) and not otherwise being on academic probation.

Total Units Required:

Core 33-36

Major Requirements 52-56

Electives (non Major) 32-35

Total 124

A minimum of 45 upper-division units are required

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Lower Division Requirements		
ECON 1050	Introductory Economics	4
ECON 2300	Introductory Statistics	4
Select two of the following:		8
POLS 1200	U.S. Politics	
POLS 1400	Comparative Politics	
POLS 1600	International Relations	
POLS 2000	Foundations of Political Theory	
POLS 2100	Empirical Approaches	
PHIL 1800	Philosophical Inquiry	4
PHIL 2010	Logic	4
Upper Division Requirements		
PHIL 3131	Ethics of Public Life	4
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL 3160	Political Philosophy	
PHIL 3165	Philosophy of Law	
Other Upper Division Philosophy course with consent of Program Director		
POLS Elective: 3000,4000, 5000-level		4
POLS Elective: 3000,4000, 5000-level		4
POLS Elective: 3000,4000, 5000-level		4
ECON Elective: 3000,4000, 5000-level		4

ECON Elective: 3000,4000, 5000-level	4
PHIL 3800 PPE Colloquium Series	4
Total Semester Hours	56

Notes

Two courses meeting University Core requirements (one meeting the Philosophical Inquiry requirement and the other meeting the Ethics and Justice requirement) must normally be taken through the Department of Philosophy and will be counted toward the major.

Students are strongly encouraged to satisfy the Ethics and Justice requirement by taking PHIL 3130 Ethics of Public Life

*PHIL 3800 PPE Interdisciplinary Colloquium Course Description (1-unit, 4 units required, repeatable for credit up to 6 units)

Language Qualification; Completion of 2102-level language or equivalent as determined by placement exam (2103 or higher) or AP credit, or 2 semesters in a new language at LMU.

Academic Plan

The normal course load is 16 semester hours (4 classes). By following the model below, a student will complete all lower division core requirements by the end of the sophomore year. Note that core areas are suggested to provide a distribution of various disciplines every semester. Please be flexible implementing these suggestions given your own interests and course availability. In four years, this plan meets all common graduation requirements.

Course	Title	Semester Hours
First Year		
Fall		
PHIL 1800	Philosophical Inquiry	4
Language course		4
POLS XXXX		4
Additional course		4
Semester Hours		16
Spring		
ECON 1050	Introductory Economics	4
ECON 2300	Introductory Statistics	4
Language course		4
Additional course		4
Semester Hours		16
Sophomore Year		
Fall		
POLS XXXX		4
PHIL 2010	Logic	4
Additional course		4
Additional course		4
Semester Hours		16
Spring		
Course		4
Course		4
POLS 3XXX or 4XXX		4
Course		4
Semester Hours		16
Junior Year		
Fall		
PHIL 3131	Ethics of Public Life ¹	4
Course		4

POLS 3XXX or 4XXX		4
Course		4
PHIL 3800	PPE Colloquium Series	1
Semester Hours		17
Spring		
PHIL 3160	Political Philosophy	4
or PHIL 3165	or Philosophy of Law	
or OTHER	or	
Course		4
PHIL 3800	PPE Colloquium Series	1
PHIL UD course with consent of Program Director		4
Course		
ECON 3XXX		4
Semester Hours		17
Senior Year		
Fall		
POLS 3XXX or 4XXX		4
ECON 3XXX		4
Course		4
Course		4
PHIL 3800	PPE Colloquium Series	1
Semester Hours		17
Spring		
Course		4
Course		4
Course		4
PHIL 3800	PPE Colloquium Series	1
Semester Hours		13
Minimum Semester Hours		128

¹ or other Philosophy Ethics and Justice course