

CERTIFICATE IN REASONING AND DECISION MAKING



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. 2025-10-24T16:47:12Z
Brandon Carey (brandon.carey): Approved for PHIL Committee Chair
2. 2025-10-24T17:03:28Z
Russell DiSilvestro (rdisilv): Approved for PHIL Chair
3. 2025-12-03T19:16:01Z
Rebekkah Mulholland (rebeccakah.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
4. 2025-12-03T19:20:14Z
Shawna Malvini Redden (malviniredden): Approved for ALS Dean

New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 2025-10-24T16:43:11Z

Viewing: Certificate in Reasoning and Decision Making

Last edit: 2025-10-24T16:43:23Z

Changes proposed by: Brandon Carey (205073704)

Academic Group: (College)

Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)

Philosophy

Catalog Year Effective:

2026-2027 Catalog

NOTE: This degree major program will be subject to program review evaluation within six years after implementation.

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Brandon Carey	brandon.carey@csus.edu	916-278-6970
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Type of Program:

Certificate

Is this a pilot program?

No

Delivery Format:

Fully Face to Face

Title of the Program:

Certificate in Reasoning and Decision Making

Designation: (degree terminology)

Certificate - Undergraduate

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

Employers consistently report that the most valuable skills in the workplace are not narrow technical abilities that may quickly become outdated, but durable cognitive capacities: problem solving, analytical reasoning, and clear communication. We are proposing this program to make available to students a course of study that specifically trains them in these skills and allows them to more easily signal to employers that they have such training. Students in this certificate program develop their skills in gathering evidence, making decisions, identifying rational choices, making and evaluating arguments, resolving conflicts and disagreements, and avoiding irrational choices, biases, and mistakes.

The curriculum is designed to support students in any major by developing their skills in critical thinking, argumentation, and decision making. Since the sequence of courses in this program focuses on these reasoning and decision-making skills, rather than philosophical content, the program would create an opportunity for students outside of the Philosophy program to develop these career-oriented skills. There is also very little overlap (only PHIL 60) between this program and the PHIL major core requirements, meaning that Philosophy majors and minors could also benefit from completing this program as a supplement to their study of Philosophy.

University Learning Goals**Undergraduate Learning Goals:**

Competence in the disciplines
Intellectual and practical skills
Personal and social responsibility
Integrative learning

Program Learning Outcomes**Program Learning Outcomes**

Learning Outcome
Evaluate arguments, proposals, and reports with precision.
Identify arguments and their constituent premises, conclusions, and inferences.
Recognize strong versus weak probabilistic evidence.
Explain clear sound or cogent arguments.
Detect biases, fallacies, and other errors in reasoning.
Construct valid proofs in both formal and natural language.
Determine which decisions and attitudes are best supported by the available evidence.
Apply rational choice theory, decision theory, and game theory to real-world choices.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6	PLO 7	PLO 8
PHIL 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PHIL 60	✓	✓		✓		✓		
PHIL 61	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
PHIL 183					✓		✓	✓

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Please attach a Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan

Reasoning and Decision Making Assessment.docx

Please attach a Curriculum Map Matrix

Reasoning and Decision Making Curriculum Map.docx

Please attach a five-year budget projection

Reasoning and Decision Making Budget.docx

Please attach the updated roadmap:

Reasoning and Decision Making Roadmap.docx

Catalog Description:

Units required for Certificate: 12

Program Description

The certificate program in Reasoning and Decision Making trains students in making decisions under uncertainty by thinking clearly, evaluating evidence, understanding arguments, and making strategic choices. The program is designed to help students in any major develop their critical thinking, argumentation, and decision-making skills to supplement their current program of study and/or prepare them for future career success. Completion of the program signals a candidate who can think critically, reason carefully, and decide wisely—traits that employers consistently identify as key differentiators for advancement.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
PHIL 4	Critical Thinking ^{1, 2}	3
PHIL 60	Deductive Logic I ¹	3
PHIL 61	Inductive Logic I ¹	3
PHIL 183	Rationality	3

¹ Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

² Students may substitute another course in GE area 1B for this requirement.

For graduate programs, the number of declared undergraduate major and the degree production over the preceding years of the corresponding baccalaureate program:

N/A

Professional uses of the proposed degree major program:

This is not a degree major program.

Key: 612