



## Phil 195 Philosophy Internship

Philosophy 195 is a student internship course that allows philosophy majors to earn upper-division credit for an academic internship with a business, non-profit, or government setting that in some way raises philosophical issues.

### What is an academic internship?

The Center for Community Engagement provides the following information about academic internships and academic internship courses at Sac State: “An Academic Internship is an on or off-campus activity designed to serve educational purposes by offering experience in business, non-profit or government settings for academic credit. An Academic Internship is a stand-alone course that formally integrates the student’s academic study with practical experience in a cooperating organization. Academic internships can be paid or unpaid and for every one unit of academic credit received, students are expected to work 45 hours.”

Phil 195 courses are typically Credit/No Credit, 3 unit courses (135 hours). Philosophy internships are supervised by certain philosophy faculty members. For more information about Philosophy internships, contact the internship coordinator, Chong Choe-Smith ([choe-smith@csus.edu](mailto:choe-smith@csus.edu)). Philosophy internships may include additional coursework, including reading assignments and a final paper, to draw out and address the philosophical issues raised by the student’s work experience. Students must have a 2.5 GPA.



## What do I need to do to start a philosophy internship?

Philosophy internships are administered by the philosophy department with the help of the Career Center and the Community Engagement Center. To start a philosophy internship, you will need to do the following, in this order:

1. Contact the faculty internship coordinator about your interest in a philosophy internship.
2. Find and apply for an unpaid or paid internship opportunity (your faculty internship coordinator, the Career Center, and the Community Engagement Center may be able to help you with this step).
3. Request to be enrolled in Phil 195 (45 hours for every one unit, for a total of 135 hours for 3 units) through the faculty internship coordinator and the Philosophy Department administrative support coordinator.
4. Upon enrollment, complete the Student Learning Agreement and other Community Engagement Center forms and the orientation process through CECconnect.

The application/on-boarding process may take some time, so students should begin this process of developing their academic internship with the faculty internship coordinator a few months before the start of a semester.



## What are some potential academic internship sites?

Sac State has hundreds of existing community partnerships with business, non-profit, and government entities that may serve as a potential academic internship site. When seeking internship opportunities, philosophy students should market themselves in terms of their skillset, including, but not limited to, critical thinking, logical analysis, clear and persuasive writing, evaluating theories and arguments, understanding different perspectives, solving complex problems, and, more generally, demonstrated oral and written communication skills.

Popular career categories for philosophy majors:

- Law or public policy
- Education
- Public service (local, state, and federal government)
- Non-profit and community organizations
- Research and government think tanks
- Editing or publishing
- Public or private media outlets
- Clinical ethics or bioethics
- Technology or science research

You can find a complete list of our community partners, listed by category (e.g., advocacy and human rights; civic engagement; research, science, and technology; and local, state, and federal government) here: <https://www.csus.edu/experience/anchor-university/community-engagement-center/internal/community-partner-list.html>. You can also use the Handshake tool through the Career Center to find an internship opportunity, for more information: <https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/internships/>.

If your desired internship site is not already on the community partners list, you can contact your faculty internship coordinator to request a new community partnership agreement with the specific business, non-profit, or government entity. The faculty internship coordinator can request an agreement using this [form](#). A community partnership agreement must be in place before the start of an academic internship (the form provides the deadlines for requesting a community partnership agreement for each semester).

## What other tips should I know to help succeed in a philosophy internship?

The philosophy department highly recommends that students consider taking a philosophy internship before graduation. Academic internships are intended to help advanced students (juniors and seniors) explore career options and receive the benefits of seeing practical applications of theoretical knowledge, gaining additional training and socialization in a particular profession, and networking and developing relationships with professionals, in order

to transition more smoothly from college to career. Here are some tips for succeeding at different stages of a philosophy internship:

- **Know yourself:** “an unexamined life is not worth living” and when we’re talking about a career path after graduation, knowing oneself is a crucial, preliminary step to considering internships and future careers. Questions to consider:
  - What are my interests or passions?
  - What are my professional goals?
  - What are my natural and/or developed talents?
- **Take advantage of campus resources:** your faculty advisor, the philosophy internship coordinator, the Career Center, and the Center for Community Engagement are here to help you with academic internships. Your faculty advisor or philosophy internship coordinator can help you to narrow down your career options based on your interests and goals. The Career Center and Center for Community Engagement can help you to find available internship opportunities that match your interests and goals and work with you through the application process.
- **Take initiative throughout:** at the beginning to secure an internship opportunity, during the internship to take on responsibility for meaningful and increasingly challenging tasks, and at the end to complete the requirements of the internship and network with professionals in one’s chosen career path.
- **Make philosophical connections:** as a philosophy internship, the work experience should raise important philosophical issues. These issues may not be obvious or apparent; additional philosophical reflection throughout the semester should make for a more successful philosophy internship experience.
- **Practice professionalism:** as a Sac State student intern, you will be representing Sac State and the Philosophy Department at your work site. You should conduct yourself with professionalism from the first day to your last day. This means that you should do your work with integrity, in other words, acting consistently with common ethical values (timeliness, honesty, trustworthiness, confidentiality, etc.) and, as you learn them, any other values and standards of one’s specific professional environment.

