



Academic Promotion Discipline Statement

Discipline area: Philosophy and Religious Studies
Disciplines: Philosophy, Applied Ethics
School: Social Work and Arts

Discipline Overview

The academic discipline of philosophy focuses on the systematic study of fundamental questions that arise in everyday life and that underpin other academic disciplines, for example, is human free will consistent with causation? Ethics is that branch of philosophy concerned with the principles that govern how societies ought to operate and how individuals ought to live their lives. Applied and professional ethics is concerned with the practical ethical questions that arise in specific settings, for example, business ethics, or professions, such as, nursing ethics.

Discipline qualification expectation is a PhD in Philosophy. A traditional academic pathway is the norm for this discipline. However, some academically trained philosophers may also have experience in applying philosophical and ethical perspectives to practical problems in government, industry and business and, thereby, gain employment outside universities, for example, as members of anti-corruption units.

Gender Profile

Profession/Industry	Data not currently available
Higher Education Sector	Data not currently available
University	25% female / 75% male

Discipline Context and Expectations

INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION	The discipline itself is not subject to accreditation requirements. At Charles Sturt philosophy and ethics are mainly taught as part of other disciplinary courses (service teaching) and where those courses require accreditation, subjects would need to meet accreditation requirements. Some professional courses have mandatory ethics subjects, e.g. computer ethics.
DISCIPLINE PEDAGOGIES	The discipline follows a traditional approach to teaching, combined with teaching that focuses on developing ability in conceptual analysis (including formal and informal reasoning processes), understanding theoretical-philosophical perspectives and key texts in the history of philosophy.
STUDENT PROFILE	Charles Sturt philosophy students are predominately domestic students. At Charles Sturt student cohorts range from approximately 15 to 60 in philosophy subjects but 100s of students in service subjects. Many of the postgraduate subjects offered (graduate certificate/graduate diploma) have paired

	<p>undergraduate versions. Postgraduate subjects have both small and large cohorts.</p> <p>There are no residential schools in this discipline.</p> <p>Students in philosophy/ethics/applied ethics are a diverse cohort comprised of both school-leavers and mature age students. The students in ethics service subjects in undergraduate professional degrees are full-time students. Students enrolled in post graduate level studies within the philosophy/ethics/applied ethics discipline are typically part-time distance, mature age students and come from various professional groups depending on the area of professional and applied ethics in question.</p>
STUDENT FEEDBACK/ PERFORMANCE	There are no unique discipline specific attributes.
RESEARCH APPROACH	<p>Research is primarily individual but may also be collaborative in nature. Philosophers are primarily involved in discipline specific research. However, they do engage in cross-disciplinary research in both theoretical and applied settings (notably philosophers engaged in applied ethics). Academic philosophers sometimes have experience in applying philosophical and ethical perspectives to practical problems in government, industry and business.</p>
PUBLICATION	<p>Publication tends to be a combination of outputs including journal articles and edited collections, and authored books and book chapters.</p> <p>This discipline has a focus on international publications. Publishing in Q1 and Q2 journals and leading international book publishers is a reasonable expectation. Additionally, there are Q3 journals in this discipline that are high quality but in more specialist areas of philosophy and ethics, and hence receive lower citations.</p> <p>Article size in this discipline varies depending on the nature of the research and the inter-disciplinary context. Articles are typically between 5,000 to 8,000 words. Standard annual output is typically one-two quality journal articles or quality book chapters: or a quality authored book every five years.</p> <p>It is normal for academics in this discipline to present their work (or part thereof) at relevant conferences as well as to submit it to peer reviewed journals.</p> <p>Research is mostly sole-authored; co-authorship does occur but typically there will be no more than two authors even in cross-disciplinary publication.</p> <p>Multi-authored publications in alphabetical order mean equal contributions by co-authors, otherwise the first author is assumed to have made the major contribution.</p>
CONFERENCES	<p>Highly regarded conferences within the discipline include the annual conferences of the American Philosophical Association, the American Association of Practical and Professional Ethics, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Midwest Studies in Philosophy, the UK Society of Applied Philosophy, British Society for Ethical Theory, the Australasian Association of Philosophy, and the Collective Intentionality Conference. Invited papers to these conferences have prestige but most contributions are refereed but not invited.</p>



GRANTS	<p>At Charles Sturt much of the research undertaken in this discipline does not require grant funding.</p> <p>While Australian Research Council Discovery and Linkage grants, and National Health and Medical Research Council grants, are available, they are very competitive and difficult to secure. Nevertheless, philosophers at Charles Sturt have a relatively good track record in securing these grants. Availability of non-ARC and non-NHMRC grants are typically restricted to applied research. However, funding for research in applied ethics from these sources is sometimes available and Charles Sturt philosophers have had a degree of success in this area.</p>
HDR SUPERVISION	Primary or co-supervision is the norm in this discipline. On occasion, for example, in some applied ethics projects, supervision is part of a cross-disciplinary team.
RECOGNITION	No unique industry specific award or fellowships.
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT	ARC Linkage and other applied ethics projects involve industry partners. There is media interest in philosophy and, especially, in applied ethics to which Charles Sturt philosophers have responded at times.
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	There are no specific professional registration requirements.

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