

# Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

The Tutorial Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) at Claremont McKenna College is a specially designed, enrollment limited, interdisciplinary major. It is adapted from a similar program at Oxford University and makes use of small seminars and tutorials to encourage students to develop their expository skills. Students *apply for acceptance* into the program in the fall of their sophomore year and usually start the program in the spring semester of the sophomore year. Participating students are designated as the “Edward J. Sexton PPE Fellows,” in recognition of a major endowment gift to support the program, and receive a small grant for educational expenses.

The academic coordinator of the program is Professor Elliott. Inquiries may also be addressed to Professor Blomberg or Hurley.

## Major Requirements

**Prerequisites:** The major has **three prerequisites**, one in each of the disciplines:

- **Economics 50. Principles of Economic Analysis**
  - **Government 20. Introduction to American Politics**
  - **Philosophy 90. Introduction to Philosophy**, or **Philosophy 92. Contemporary Moral Issues**, or **Philosophy 93. Introduction to Philosophy and Public Affairs**
- Normally, the prerequisites for the program should be completed by the end of the fall semester of the sophomore year.

**Major Courses:** The major requires **at least nine courses**, distributed as follows:

### 1. CMC Seminars and Tutorials (6 courses)

The core of the PPE major is the three seminar-tutorial courses, one in each of

the three disciplines of the program. In these double courses, students typically participate in a weekly class seminar together with a weekly tutorial in which papers are read and discussed under the supervision of one of CMC’s senior professors. The three seminar-tutorials are:

- **PPE 1a, b. Philosophy**
- **PPP 11a, b. Politics**
- **PPE 110a, b. Economics**

These courses are only open to students accepted to the PPE program.

### 2. Elective Courses (3 courses)

Majors are also required to complete at least three elective courses in at least two of the three constituent disciplines. One of the elective courses must be *Economics 102. Intermediate Macroeconomics*, or another intermediate level economics course approved by the PPE faculty advisor. This course must be completed before students enroll in PPE 110.

Students are encouraged to take the other elective courses “*off-campus*” — either in off-campus programs abroad, in CMC’s Washington Program, or through cross-registration at the other colleges in Claremont. The purpose of the “*off-campus*” segment of the major — typically completed in the fall of the junior year — is to increase the breadth of students’ understanding of alternative views.

### Senior Thesis in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

The senior thesis is a general education requirement and should serve as a capstone experience to a student’s undergraduate education. Students must complete a senior thesis in at least one of their majors under supervision of a faculty reader who teaches within that major, unless granted a special exception.

Students interested in doing a two-semester thesis project complete a one-half credit or full credit thesis research course in the first semester and the senior thesis in the second semester. The senior thesis

and the thesis research course may not be counted as courses in the major.

### General Education Requirements for PPE Majors

Students with interdisciplinary majors requiring courses in the *humanities* and/ or *social sciences* are required to take designated courses in *six different fields* of the humanities and social sciences for the general education requirements. PPE majors must take courses in at least three of the four fields of the social sciences (economics, government, history, and psychology) and in three of the four fields of the humanities (literature, philosophy, religious studies, and literature in a foreign language). These courses must include Economics 50, Government 20, and Philosophy 90, 92, or 93 (see “Prerequisites” for details). Majors may take courses in all four of the social sciences and in two of the humanities. Students with a dual or double major in PPE and another field in the social sciences or humanities will usually be required to take an additional course. For further information, see “Academic Policies and Procedures.”

### Special Options for Majors

#### Dual Majors

Students may choose to satisfy the requirements of another major for a dual or double major including PPE. Dual majors including PPE must complete the three required prerequisites and the six required PPE courses at CMC. For the elective requirement dual majors must take *Economics 102. Intermediate Macroeconomics*, or another intermediate level economics course approved by the PPE faculty advisor. This course must be completed before students enroll in PPE 110. Dual majors are encouraged to take additional electives in the other disciplines of the major and to write their *senior thesis* on a topic significant to their PPE major. For further information, see “Senior Thesis in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics” above.

Please note the restrictions on honors in the major for students with a dual

major under “Honors in PPE” below. For further information on dual majors and the requirements for the other discipline of the dual major, please check the appropriate sections of this catalog.

### Honors in PPE

To be eligible for honors in the major, PPE students must have a GPA of “B+” (10.00) or better for courses in the major. Honors are awarded on the basis of a comprehensive examination.

Students with a *dual major* including PPE who wish to be considered for *honors* in PPE will only receive honors if they:

- have completed all requirements for a *full major* in PPE and are granted honors, or
- qualify and receive honors in *both disciplines* of their dual major. See “Academic Honors at Graduation” for details.

### Study Abroad

PPE majors are strongly encouraged to complete elective courses in the major on a study abroad program. Appropriate programs should be selected in consultation with the PPE faculty advisors. For further details on study abroad applications and requirements, see “Study Abroad.”

### The Faculty

*CMC Faculty:* Blomberg, Elliott (Program Coordinator), and Hurley.

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## Courses

#### 1a, b. Philosophy. Hurley

An interdisciplinary double course, seminar- and tutorial-based, that focuses on social theory, ethics, and theories of knowledge. Offered every year.

#### 11a, b. Politics. Elliott

A double course, seminar- and tutorial-based, that focuses on selected topics in policy. Offered every year.

#### 110a, b. Economics. Blomberg

A double course, seminar- and tutorial-based, that focuses on selected topics in economic theory and public policy. Offered every year.