Philosophy Major/Pre-Med @SJSU

Why Philosophy?
Medical schools say they value applicants with broad (“liberal arts”) undergraduate education. Majoring in Philosophy will give you that! You’ll develop your critical thinking and communication skills, dig into ethics, and think about the interactions between science, technology, professionals, and the human community.

Philosophy BA requirements give you the flexibility to take all the pre-med science coursework you need and to build a program of Philosophy courses that are meaningful to you. Plus, your Philosophy courses can help you complete your General Education requirements!

Philosophy BA requirements:
PHIL 70A (“Ancient Philosophy”)
PHIL 70B (“Modern Philosophy”)
Logic – either PHIL 57 (“Logic & Critical Reasoning”) or PHIL 9 (“Math & Logic for GE”)
Eight upper-division Philosophy courses, including at least one seminar (PHIL 190, PHIL 195, or a graduate seminar with permission of instructor)

Philosophy courses of special interest to pre-med students:
PHIL 111 (“Medical Ethics”)
PHIL 132 (“Ethical Theory”)
PHIL 159 (“Philosophy of Mind”)
PHIL 122 (“Social Justice”)
PHIL 126 (“Environmental Ethics & Philosophy”)
PHIL 108 (“Political & Social Philosophy”)
PHIL 117 (“Philosophy of Race”)
PHIL 160 (“Philosophy of Science”) [GE area R]
PHIL 133 (“Ethics in Science”) [GE area V]
PHIL 110 (“Science, Technology & Human Values”) [GE area V]
PHIL 186 (“Professional & Business Ethics”) [GE area S]

Philosophy majors are problem-solvers who get to the heart of the matter and draw crucial connections. Their exposure to core areas of philosophy like logic and ethics makes them clear and careful thinkers who appreciate the importance of principled and humane individual interactions and policies. And, philosophy majors who apply to medical school have a higher acceptance rate than any other major.¹

¹ American Medical Student Association, “Major Anxiety: If You Think Biochemistry is Your Ticket to Medical School, Think Again,” Sept. 2000.