



Philosophy

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. As a Philosophy concentrator, you will be uncovering, analyzing, and evaluating the values and assumptions implicit in human activities and practices, such as science, the arts, religion, morality, ethics, and social and political institutions. Thus Philosophy could be considered the fundamental liberal arts major.

In its emphasis on questioning and knowing, the pursuit of Philosophy will help you acquire excellent analytical and critical evaluation skills, which will be applicable to a wide range of careers.

Related fields include Classical Studies, History, Political Science, Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Linguistics, Law, Ancient Civilizations, and Biblical Studies.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Research/Project

Development Skills

- Asking questions
- Writing proposals
- Organizing ideas/information
- Evaluating information
- Comparing perspectives

Analytical Skills

- Reading critically
- Reasoning logically
- Interpreting data/relationships
- Identifying and clarifying values
- Synthesizing ideas

Problem-Solving Skills

- Linking specific issues to broad concepts
- Defining problems
- Weighing alternatives
- Addressing opposing viewpoints
- Applying logic to problems
- Identifying solutions
- Evaluating results
- Investigating alternatives

Communication Skills

- Articulating abstract complicated concepts
- Presenting alternative viewpoints
- Advising /counseling
- Interviewing
- Writing effectively
- Negotiating
- Resolving conflicts
- Debating

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Philosophy

student organizations include the Undergraduate Philosophy Club and the Student Secular Alliance Club. Other ways to build skills include study abroad, off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Philosophy concentrators develop high-level analytical and communication skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, the ability to interpret conflicting points of view with accuracy and reach a decision that is rationally and objectively defensible may be equally useful

whether working as a mediator, a diplomat, or a member of a biomedical ethics committee.

Many concentrators go on to graduate, law, or other professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Philosophy graduates.

Research/Project

Development Skills

Legislative assistant
Paralegal
Human services coordinator 
Artificial intelligence and expert systems designer 
Biomedical ethics researcher
Information broker
Web designer
Fundraiser
Grants administrator

Analytical Skills

Policy analyst 
City solicitor 
Public defender 
College professor 
Economist 
Affirmative action officer
Intelligence officer
Underwriter/claims adjuster
Genetic counselor 
Financial/Business Analyst

Problem Solving Skills

Public health officer 
Programmer analyst
Compliance manager
Ethics consultant 
State senator
Social worker 
Counselor 

Communication Skills

K-12 teacher
Foreign service officer
Consumer protection advocate
Consumer relations representative
Public relations director
Speech writer
Technical writer, all media
Mediation attorney 
Community development liaison
Court liaison
Community organizer
Clergy /missionary
 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The prerequisite for the concentration is one 100- or 200-level Philosophy course with a C or better. The concentration requires 25 credit hours at a minimum, of which at least one must be a 400-level course. We also offer an honors concentration and a 15-credit minor.

For further information, please make an appointment with a concentration advisor.

Department of Philosophy

2215 Angell Hall
734-764-6285
lsa.umich.edu/philosophy

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS / RESOURCES

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:
careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector:
careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

On campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:
studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

The Maize pages list hundreds of organizations for

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students to get involved in:
maizepages.umich.edu

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
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