

Philosophy Department Learning Goals and Objectives

- I. **General.** Students should develop a sense of the intrinsic value of philosophical reflection and contemplation, and of the enduring significance of philosophical issues.
- II. **Thinking and Reasoning.**
 - Students should have the ability to use reason to analyze, reconstruct, and evaluate claims and arguments.
 - Students should have the ability to structure their own arguments and to synthesize material. “The argument is the key.”
- III. **Reading.** Students should develop the ability to read and respond critically and charitably to philosophical arguments. They should engage in perspective taking, demonstrate understanding through reconstruction of arguments, anticipate objections or counter-arguments, and should situate the text or material in the appropriate philosophical context.
 - Read-analyze-reconstruct-develop-synthesize.
- IV. **Communication.**
 - A. **Writing.** Students should write clear, organized prose with well-reasoned and structured arguments.
 - Students should be creative and/or original in their ideas
 - Students should be persuasive and even compelling in their arguments
 - Students should have their own “voice”; the student’s position in relation to the arguments should be clear
 - Students should be consistent in citing practices within the work
 - B. **Speaking.**
 - Students should have the skills to articulate and defend their arguments
 - Students should have the ability to listen and engage in meaningful discussions of philosophical concepts and materials
 - Students should be charitable in engaging with opposing arguments
- V. **Content.**
 - Students should be conversant with a range of different philosophical topics, including but not limited to: Logic, History, Ethics, Epistemology, and Metaphysics.

- Students should have in-depth knowledge of at least one sub-field of philosophy.
- Students should appreciate the interdisciplinary significance of philosophy and should have connected their philosophical knowledge to other fields or to non-philosophical concerns.
- Students should have the skills to find the resource materials and texts to support their arguments.