

PHILOSOPHY (HBA)

Department of Philosophy

What is knowledge? What is justice? When is war justified? What sort of thing am I - a (merely) physical entity, or something more? What makes me, *me*? Where is the line between art and propaganda? In philosophy, we ask and try to answer some of the deepest questions confronting us as human beings. Our philosophical reflections are guided by critical engagements with the views of great thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Nietzsche, and many others.

Philosophy teaches you to read critically and write in a succinct and compelling way - perhaps the most important communicative skills you will ever develop. It also asks you to express, and shows you how to defend, your own views. This type of "dialectical" activity will enable you to discover what you think and value, and to express your views persuasively. These skills are vital to success in almost any career path one could follow, from law and journalism to marketing and business administration.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we've pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using [My Program Plan](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) found at www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans

Programs of Study (POSt)

- Specialist Program ERSPE0231 Philosophy (Arts)
- Major Program ERMAJ0231 Philosophy (Arts)
- Minor Program ERMIN0231 Philosophy (Arts)
- Minor Program ERMIN1618 Ethics, Law and Society (Arts)
- Minor Program ERMIN1370 Philosophy of Science (Arts)
- Minor Program ERMIN1011 Logic (Arts)

Check out...

Discover the art of everyday reasoning in PHL239H5 by learning to spot strong arguments, refute weak ones, and sharpen your critical thinking skills!

What can I do with my degree?

The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

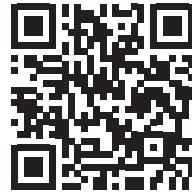
Careers for graduates: Lawyer; Legal researcher; Police officer; Professor; Member of Parliament; Intelligence officer; Foreign service officer; Journalist; Editor; HR specialist; Public policy analyst; Political aid; Biomedical ethics specialist; Speech writer; Librarian; Technical writer; Lobbyist.

Workplaces: Law; Medicine; Journalism; Government; Technology; Business; Education and Academia.



PHILOSOPHY

MAJOR Program Plan



HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans to create your own plan using [My Program Plan](#).
Update your plan yearly.

	1 ST YEAR	2 ND YEAR	3 RD YEAR	4 TH OR FINAL YEAR
PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*	<p>1ST YEAR</p> <p>Enroll in PHL113H5 and/or PHL103H5. Set up a meeting with the Philosophy Undergraduate Advisor.</p> <p>Choose a program of study (Subject POST) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use Degree Explorer and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.</p> <p>Develop academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a utmONE First-Year Foundations Course. Build community and gain academic support through LAUNCH. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.</p>	<p>2ND YEAR</p> <p>For second year and higher, attain 2.0 credits in the History of Philosophy; 0.5 credit in Logic (PHL245H5); 1.0 credits in Metaphysics and Epistemology; and 1.0 credits in Ethics and Political Philosophy. View the Academic Calendar.</p> <p>If you are considering law school, take PHL239H5: Critical Reasoning. This course will teach you the skills you need to ace the LSAT. Philosophy students are the highest scoring group on the LSAT virtually every year!</p>	<p>3RD YEAR</p> <p>Attain at least 3.0 credits at the 300 and 0.5 credits at the 400 level. Go to the UTM Philosophy Essay Clinic to improve your academic writing. If you haven't yet satisfied the Logic requirement, PHL245H5, make sure to do it this year!</p> <p>Throughout your undergraduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Degree Explorer to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements. • See the Office of the Registrar and the Philosophy Undergraduate Advisor for support. 	<p>4TH OR FINAL YEAR</p> <p>Apply to the Socrates Project (PHL489Y5) to work as a TA and study advanced topics in philosophy. Speak to the Philosophy Undergraduate Advisor.</p> <p>Attend or participate in the UTM/St. George Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. Socrates Project students present a talk at this conference.</p> <p>Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</p>
BUILD SKILLS	<p>1ST YEAR</p> <p>Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.</p> <p>Attend the Get Hired Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.</p> <p>Attend the Experiential Education Fair.</p>	<p>2ND YEAR</p> <p>Use the Career & Co-Curricular Learning Network (CLNx) to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities including the Work-Study program.</p> <p>Consider a double major in Philosophy and an applied or social science like Psychology. This will give you an excellent balance of "intellectual" and "real world" skills. Most employers want both!</p>	<p>3RD YEAR</p> <p>If you are considering applying to graduate school in Philosophy, now is the time to start thinking about your writing sample. Consider polishing a strong paper written for a 300/400 level course.</p> <p>Look into summer jobs & internships in local law firms, government, political organizations and news media. (Let them know you are a Philosophy major!)</p>	<p>4TH OR FINAL YEAR</p> <p>Skills are transferrable to any job regardless of where you develop them. Need to strengthen your organizational skills? Consider a role as the CSE Community Engagement Assistant.</p>
BUILD A NETWORK	<p>1ST YEAR</p> <p>Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the Undergraduate Philosophy Society (PAS). Go to the PAS Philosophy Department Meet & Greet.</p> <p>Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.</p>	<p>2ND YEAR</p> <p>Do you have a professor you would like to connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don't be shy! Learn Tips On How to Approach a Professor available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU). Your Philosophy profs want to hear from you!</p>	<p>3RD YEAR</p> <p>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).</p> <p>Learn about local issues! Consider a CSE Alternative Reading Week (ARW) to become engaged with the local community.</p> <p>Attend the tri-campus Philosophy talks and conferences held at the St. George campus. View the Events Calendar for more information.</p>	<p>4TH OR FINAL YEAR</p> <p>Join a professional association. Check out the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA).</p> <p>Go to a conference such as the CPA's Annual Congress.</p>
BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET	<p>1ST YEAR</p> <p>Engage with the many programs offered by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Consider joining the Canada Eh? day trips or English Language Conversation Circles to deepen your global mindset.</p> <p>First-year international students can also take advantage of THRIVE-IN, a one-day conference dedicated to helping you start your UTM journey successfully.</p>	<p>2ND YEAR</p> <p>Participate in International Education Week and engage in programs like Global and Intercultural Fluency Training Series (GIFTS) to build on your leadership and communication skills in global citizenship.</p> <p>Learn about and prepare for a future UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC to strengthen and enhance your intercultural skill set, and learn about other cultures while sharing your own!</p>	<p>3RD YEAR</p> <p>Expanding your intercultural awareness and developing intercultural skills will help you in your academics, personal growth and are highly sought out by employers.</p> <p>Earn credits overseas! Apply to study for a summer term, or year at one of 170+ universities. Speak to the IEC for details about Course Based Exchange, funding and travel safety. Attend Global Learning Week to learn about the various opportunities available to you!</p>	<p>4TH OR FINAL YEAR</p> <p>Engage in programs like ISTEP and THRIVE-OUT to support your transition out of the University!</p>
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE	<p>1ST YEAR</p> <p>Start by exploring the UTM Career Centre Model—a chance to reflect and choose what's right for you with guided support. Access MyCareerCentre 24/7 for flexible, interactive career learning at your own pace. Check out Career Prospects: What Can I Do With a Philosophy Degree?</p> <p>Connect with support in-person: Drop-in to an Academic & Career Planning Session to chat with Advisors and Career Counsellors.</p>	<p>2ND YEAR</p> <p>Explore your options with the CC's Job Shadow Program, In the Field, or a one-on-one with a Career Counsellor.</p> <p>Thinking about grad school? Attend the Graduate & Professional School Fair, research application requirements, admission tests, and explore funding options.</p> <p>Getting ready for work? Join workshops, drop-ins, and networking events to build experience and confidently share your skills – Register on CLNx.</p>	<p>3RD YEAR</p> <p>Need job search support? Book a coaching appointment with an Employment Strategist for personalized guidance.</p> <p>Ready to take the next step for grad school, visit the Pursue Learning section on MyCareerCentre and drop-in to chat with a Career Counsellor about grad school prep tips.</p> <p>Want to grow your network? Attend the Career Centre Networking Series and Let's Talk About events — Register on CLNx.</p>	<p>4TH OR FINAL YEAR</p> <p>Join the Now That I'm Graduating, What's Next? session to start building your job search plan. Attend the Sweats to Suits Job Search Conference and discover diverse career pathways.</p> <p>Work with the Employment Strategist team to review your resume and prep for interviews.</p> <p>Still figuring things out? Meet with a Career Counsellor to create a career plan and attend a Career Wellness session to support your well-being along the way.</p>

*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.

Revised on: 06/05/2025

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.

PHILOSOPHY

Skills developed in Philosophy

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

Critical thinking & problem-solving:

Logical reasoning, identifying key issues in decision-making or problem solving.

Communication: Developing and defending a position; anticipating and addressing objections; speaking and writing clearly and succinctly; saying exactly what you mean.

Information gathering: Interpreting, analyzing, and critically evaluating complex texts.

Research: Working independently and engaging with both historical and contemporary texts.

Ethics & values: Identifying and clarifying alternative points of view and systems of values; reflecting on your own values in a disciplined way.

Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- Philosophy Academic Society (PAS)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)
- UTM Debating Club (Philosophy Department team)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit

Student Groups and Societies Directory

Services that support you

- **Accessibility Services (AS)**
- **Career Centre (CC)**
- **Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)**
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)**
- **Experiential Education Unit (EEU)**
- **Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)**
- **International Education Centre (IEC)**
- **Office of the Registrar (OR)**
- **Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)**
- **Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)**
- **UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)**

FUTURE STUDENTS

Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s. More information is available at utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook.

NOTE: During the application process, applicants will select Humanities admissions category but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

Sneak Peek

In this age of global markets and cultural juxtapositions, nuclear threats and “alternative facts”, you will want to know about the best philosophical work on justice, rights, welfare and political authority. Check out PHL365H5: Issues in Political Philosophy.

UTM Philosophy aims to inculcate in students the values of intellectual perseverance, clarity of thought and communication, and creativity.

Student Recruitment & Admissions

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