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 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)

Check out...

Is time travel possible? Could you be living entirely in a virtual reality, unbeknownst to you? Find out in PHL242: Science Fiction and Philosophy.

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.
MAJOR Program Plan

1ST YEAR
- Enroll in PHIL13H5 and/or PHIL103H5. Set up a meeting with the Philosophy Undergraduate Advisor.
- Choose a program of study (Subject POS) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer Planner and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.
- Start strong and get informed with aCGONE and LAUNCH through the Centre for Student Engagement (CSE). Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.
- Enroll in PHL113H5 and/or PHL103H5. Set up a meeting with the Philosophy Undergraduate Advisor.
- Choose a program of study once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer Planner and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.
- Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.
- Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.

2ND YEAR
- Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Explore different cultures through food, music, and sport or through sight-seeing around the GTA.
- Do you have a professor you really like or connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. 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!
- Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the Undergraduate Philosophy Society (UPS). Go to the UPS Philosophy Department Meet & Greet. Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.
- Enroll in a UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC. Take advantage of this opportunity to travel as part of a class, or a co-curricular opportunity, and learn about a topic of interest in a unique location.

3RD YEAR
- Attend the Program Selection & Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.
- Consider further education? Attend the CC’s Graduate and Professional Schools Fair. If you are thinking of Law School, attend the Law School Information Session.
- Talk to professors – they are potential mentors and references.
- Embark on a UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC. Take advantage of this opportunity to travel as part of a class, or a co-curricular opportunity, and learn about a topic of interest in a unique location.
- What’s your next step after undergrad?
- Attain at least 3.0 credits at the 300/400 level. End up at the UTM Philosophy Essay Clinic to improve your academic writing. If you haven’t yet satisfied the Logic requirement, PHIL245H5, make sure to do it this year.
- Throughout your undergraduate degree:
  - use the Degree Explorer to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.
  - see the Office of the Registrar and the Philosophy Undergraduate Advisor.
- Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
- Market your skills to employers. Get your resume critiqued at the CC. Attend the CC workshop Now That I’m Graduating What’s Next?
- What’s your next step after undergrad?
- Write a strong application for further education. Attend the CC’s Mastering the Personal Statement workshop and the Philosophy Grad School workshop.
- Skills are transferable to any job regardless of where you develop them. Need to strengthen your organizational skills? Consider a role in the CSE Community Engagement Assistant.

Build Skills
- Use the Career Learning Network (CLIN) to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities including the Work-Study program.
- 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!

Plan For Your Future
- 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.

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

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

For a listing of clubs on campus visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs.

Department of Philosophy

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Services that support you

- Accessibility Services (AS)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- Experiential Education Unit (EEU)
- Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
- Indigenous Centre (IC)
- 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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Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6
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www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students