



PHILOSOPHY

Scholarship of the major branches of philosophy

Michigan has ranked among the top five philosophy doctoral programs nationally and top six departments internationally in assessments spanning five decades, with strengths in all the main areas of philosophy—ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of language and mind, philosophy of science, and aesthetics—and in the history of Western philosophy, from antiquity to the present. The Department of Philosophy emphasizes broad and intensive training in the analytic tradition across the main areas of the discipline. Undergraduate students, including major and minor concentrators, participate in a comprehensive and rigorous program of study, which provides them with the critical and analytical facility that is central to liberal arts training. Undergraduates are well prepared for a wide range of careers in both the professions and public service, while graduate students achieve impressive success on the job market, with many receiving offers from highly ranked philosophy departments.

PHILOSOPHY OUTREACH INITIATIVES

As a profession, philosophy is not demographically diverse. We are mounting initiatives to bring philosophy to those who have not traditionally participated in it, and to bring non-traditional participants in philosophy into our classrooms. One initiative, designed and driven by our graduate students, is to teach a philosophy course at a Dearborn public school that wouldn't otherwise have philosophy in its curriculum. Another is to run an "Emerging Scholars" conference for promising undergraduates and their advisors at traditionally under-represented institutions to make participants aware of top graduate philosophy programs. A fund dedicated to outreach efforts, with gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually, would be invaluable in the pursuit of these initiatives.

CO-CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT

Donor support is needed for a wide range of activities that enrich our student experience and enhance their opportunities to engage in learning outside the classroom. This fund will support undergraduate and graduate students participating in co-curricular experiences such as language immersion and training, a semester-long collaborative exchange program, and reading groups. Annual gifts totalling \$25,000 will support our students who seek complementary experiences beyond their classrooms or campus, helping them define their interests and sharpen their skills.

PHILOSOPHY AREA FUNDS

Funding of \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually is needed to support teaching and research in areas of traditional and growing departmental strengths. These areas include moral and political philosophy, law and philosophy, philosophy of science, history of philosophy, and an emerging interdisciplinary cognitive science initiative. Each area fund could be used to support speakers and conferences, undergraduate research projects, summer fellowships, and conference and summer institute travel grants for graduate students, faculty retention and recruitment, and curricular initiatives in the targeted area.

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Successes in faculty recruiting and retention have greatly enhanced the department's international distinction and visibility in such central areas as epistemology, philosophy of language, and metaphysics. Although we are well positioned to retain our current standing in the top five graduate programs nationally, we urgently need our graduate student support to be competitive with packages offered by our peer institutions—Cornell, Harvard, MIT, NYU, Princeton, Rutgers, and Yale—in order to recruit the strongest graduate students in our areas of faculty strength. Also, we seek to increase the number of graduate students coming to Michigan to stimulate our vibrant intellectual environment by regularly injecting the most promising philosophical talents into our campus community. An endowed investment of \$1M or \$50,000 annually would ensure our ability to remain competitive.



“I feel very fortunate to be able to say that I chose Michigan for a number of reasons—most immediately, the department’s strengths in ethics and related areas and the tendency of folks in the department to think about how their work connects with other disciplines, and with pressing issues of the day.”

***–Mica Rapstine,
graduate student; EDGe
organizer, undergraduate
outreach coordinator***



ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

Named professorships, with an endowed gift of \$2.5M, are the best means of attracting and retaining top faculty in specific areas of philosophy. Outstanding faculty are central to the continuing quality and ongoing leadership of the department. A Named Endowed Professorship will serve as a powerful recruitment tool for distinguished scholars. We currently seek endowed professorships in areas that reinforce exciting interdisciplinary undergraduate initiatives, such as Cognitive Science, and also Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

CONTACT INFO

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