Philosophy
Student Learning Goals

The attempt to reach a clearer understanding of issues important to human life, to think about them critically and independently, and to weigh different reasons for and against specific claims and arguments are at the core of philosophical activity.

Students completing our courses should, with varying degrees of competence depending on the number and levels of the courses they have taken, be able to

1) discern philosophical questions and problems as well as understand their significance.

2) discern distinct arguments in philosophical texts and effectively present them in written work.

3) know how to clarify a question, claim or argument.

4) think independently and creatively about a well-formed philosophical question or problem.

5) come up with their own questions and topics, views and arguments.

6) distinguish between good arguments and fallacies.

7) think of arguments for and against a given claim and weigh them against each other.

8) demonstrate some understanding of the historical dimension of philosophy as a discipline.

9) listen to and understand what others are saying in a discussion.

10) respond to the views expressed by others in an intelligible and constructive way.

11) be intellectual team-workers in their philosophical investigations.

12) closely read complicated and difficult texts, interpret them, and reconstruct specific claims or arguments in a clear, organized, and effective manner.

13) write in a clear, intelligible and reasonable way.

14) conduct their own research on a given topic (how to use the library, the web, etc.).