

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - PHILOSOPHY

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience.

UVic students in the [Philosophy](#) program develop the following program-specific competencies. We worked with the Department of Philosophy to develop this document.

PHILOSOPHICAL METHOD

Uses philosophical methodologies and techniques to think carefully about difficult material and identify its most significant features

- + Critically evaluates lines of reasoning for soundness and validity
- + Critically evaluates the merits of competing arguments and viewpoints
- + Articulates an argument or viewpoint clearly and persuasively
- + Recognizes complexity in aspects of the world that are otherwise taken for granted
- + Explores ethical or moral issues from multiple philosophical perspectives

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of ancient and modern traditions of philosophical thought

- + Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of ancient philosophical traditions in Western philosophy including Plato and Aristotle
- + Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of modern traditions in Western philosophy including rationalism, empiricism and existentialism

VALUE THEORY

Explores ethical issues in social, political, economic, scientific and aesthetic contexts

- + Understands and critically assesses the practical ethical dimensions of controversial issues in contemporary society such as abortion, euthanasia, treatment of animals, violence and war, environmental protection, punishment, racism and free speech
- + Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the basic issues and theoretical perspectives in moral philosophy
- + Examines the ethical issues arising in professional fields such as business, medicine, law and politics

EPISTEMOLOGY AND METAPHYSICS

Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the central concepts, issues and theories in epistemology (the theory of knowledge) and investigates the ultimate nature of reality

- + Explores the meaning of concepts such as knowledge, skepticism, evidence, rational belief, doubt, justification and certainty
- + Explores philosophical issues that pertain both to the psychology of perception and the theory of knowledge, examining the respective merits of realist, representationalist and phenomenalist theories
- + Examines the philosophy of religion
- + Examines the nature of technology and its moral implications for human and non-human environments
- + Examines the philosophy of language

LOGIC

Generates deductively valid arguments and detects invalid arguments

- + Understands inductive logic, decision making, syllogistic reasoning and informal fallacies
- + Develops critical thinking skills needed for understanding and evaluating arguments
- + Identifies correct inference rules for sentential arguments and quantificational arguments
- + Understands the treatment and justification of formal logic from a theoretical point of view