

NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay

www.nipissingu.ca

Philosophy



Program Description

Thinking about a Major? Why not Major in Thinking? Rather than being concerned with a particular set of questions or a particular period of time, philosophy concerns itself with the nature of inquiry, thought, and argument itself, asking how each of these operates in the various areas of human life, from ethics and politics to the study of nature and reality. This means that philosophy students take up the truly big questions: What is the best life? Why should we be moral? How is knowledge possible? Is the world really as it appears to us? How does the mind work? At the same time, the skills students develop in pursuit of a degree in philosophy – careful reading, charitable interpretation and discussion, and rigorous argumentation – have proven themselves to be useful in innumerable fields within and beyond the university.

Our Teaching Approach

The Philosophy Program at Nipissing is particularly committed to introducing students to the history of philosophy, from the ancient period to the present, and also has strengths in ethics (including ‘applied ethics’ courses such as Environmental Ethics and Bioethics), and in Eastern Philosophy (Classical Indian philosophy, Confucianism, Taoism, Zen, etc.). The program is designed to work well either as a stand-alone degree or as a combined degree with other programs, and there are numerous philosophy courses offered each year that do not have prerequisites and that are popular electives for students in other programs.

With an average of 35 full-time majors, the philosophy program is relatively small and student-centred: our courses involve lots of debate and discussion, and students get to know and work closely with both their professors and their peers. If you are interested in getting involved beyond the classroom, the Nipissing University Philosophy Society (NUPS) hosts a monthly get-together of social events, movie and pub nights, and opportunities to simply hang out with your peers to discuss philosophical ideas.

Program and Faculty

Bachelor of Arts

- Honours Specialization
- Specialization
- Major
- Minor

In first year, you will take two introductory courses, one that will provide you with a solid foundation in the history of Western Philosophy, and one that will introduce you fundamental concepts in value theory (“Values and the Human Condition”). In both courses, you will develop specific skills to help you analyse arguments about the nature of justice, truth, morality, reason, God, and science. You will also develop keen research skills and improve your ability to write compelling arguments.

In upper years, you will be able to take courses and seminars with a more specific focus on topics such as Environmental Ethics, Transhumanism, Surveillance and Datafication, Existentialism, Freud, Marx, Philosophy of Law, Contemporary Theories of Justice, and many others. In fourth year, you will have the option of doing a directed studies course in which you will complete your own independent research project in a subject of your choosing, and under a professor’s supervision. A course of this nature is great preparation for graduate studies. Ultimately, an undergraduate degree in Philosophy will also expose you to and enhance a range of transferrable skills like critical and analytical thinking, clear communication, and strong reasoning. These skills are useful and desired traits in any career and by all employers.





Bachelor of Education: The Schulich School of Education

If you want to earn a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, you can choose from the Concurrent route (available with all honours undergraduate programs except Nursing and Social Work), or the Consecutive Program (once you've completed your undergraduate degree).

The Schulich School of Education is one of the best education programs in Ontario. It will prepare you to teach in both traditional and non-traditional environments, and you will gain communication and collaborative skills that can be used in any career.

Our teacher candidates are immersed in an active professional learning environment with support and resources available through our Professional Learning Centre.

Each term a calendar of opportunities is made available, and you will be invited to participate in a series of real-world professional experiences that help you to hone skills, strategies and activities that integrate digital technology resources, enhance school community involvement, develop a personal résumé, portfolio and interview techniques, and much more.

All professional learning opportunities are designed to support and supplement course content by broadening teaching/learning skills and by building your confidence and readiness for the teaching profession.

Why Nipissing?

You will feel right at home the minute you step onto campus. Becoming a part of our community is just one of the many perks of attending Nipissing. You will also benefit from small class sizes where you will be encouraged to engage in meaningful dialogue and self-expression. Should you need help, you will have access to our supportive professors, even outside of classroom hours.

Nipissing is focused on student success, and you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally. In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school.

We encourage you to come and see for yourself that Nipissing University is right where you belong.



Where Can I Go From Here?

Nipissing Philosophy graduates are prepared for many different career paths with the skills they develop through their undergraduate degree, such as critical thinking, problem solving, excellent communication, and research skills. Philosophy is excellent preparation for Law School, and our grads score very well on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), thanks to the skills they develop during the program. Students also move onto graduate school in a range of fields from business to education to journalism to public health.

Philosophy students become particularly good at thinking outside the box, which is a highly desired skill in today's work force. Your skills will transfer well to many careers, including environmentalist, researcher, human rights activist, marketer, sales consultant and much more.

Find out more at: www.nipissingu.ca/philosophy



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

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