

2016

UNO Website Dept. of Philosophy Knowledge and Skills Gained

UNO Department of Philosophy
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Knowledge & Skills Gained

UNO / College of Arts & Sciences / Philosophy / Academics / Knowledge & Skills Gained



What is a Liberal Arts Education?

A Liberal Arts education is an approach to college learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. This approach emphasizes broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth achievement in a specific field of interest. It helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, strong intellectual and practical skills that span all major fields of study, such as communication, analytical, and problem-solving skills, and the demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.

Contact Us

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Related Resources

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Applying What You Learn



In his **message to the students** in the College of Arts and Sciences, Dean Booker explains the importance of "making knowledge matter." We believe that means helping you develop useful, real-world skills alongside the sense of fulfillment and enrichment that a major in Philosophy can provide.

We also believe in making you aware of the knowledge and skills you're developing along the way, so that you can capitalize on your strengths in the marketplace, graduate school and in life.

Knowledge & Skills Gained as a Philosophy Major

Knowledge:

- The study of philosophy develops skills in reasoning, analyzing, critically evaluating ideas and arguments.
- Philosophy studies the reasoning process itself.
- Ethics is a subject within philosophy that teaches students how to reason about values and the rightness of actions.
- Studying the history of philosophy is essential to the understanding of the history of ideas and culture.

Skills:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** - The ability to identify the key issues in decision-making or problem solving; to identify a general principle that links together related problems, points, data; to define the parameters of a problem.
- **Argument Skills** - The ability to use argumentation techniques to persuade others; to reason from premises to conclusions; to assess the implications of a position which has been taken.
- **Communication Skills** - The ability to summarize the content of a message clearly and objectively; to differentiate fact from value; to express one's point of view without violating others' rights; and to explain ideas and principles to others.
- **Information Management** - The ability to sort data; to compile and rank information; to compile and evaluate information; and to use this information to solve problems.
- **Design and Planning Skills** - The ability to look at a problem from different angles and identify alternative courses of action.
- **Research and Investigation Skills** - The ability to seek out information; to identify problems and needs; to systematically define a problem; to formulate questions relevant to clarifying a particular problem, topic, or issue.
- **Management and Administration Skills** - The ability to analyze tasks and set priorities; to identify resource materials useful in the solution of a problem.

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