1. A critical understanding of some of the key debates in the history of philosophy.

2. A thorough knowledge of some of the central concepts and theories in the canon of the core areas of ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology, along with basic methods of reasoning in logic, formal or informal.

3. An ability to write concisely, relevantly and analytically, and to construct independent lines of argument.

Broadly, a philosophy major is expected to learn how to think about the world, our place in it, what reality is like, how we know, how we ought to live, how to reason and how to write about such themes. The skills acquired in clear thinking, careful writing, and cogent reasoning are portable skills applicable in many life situations and prospective careers.