The Ohio State University Department of Philosophy rigorously instructs students to question, examine, and analyze issues and ideas and provides a foundation for success in law, business, medicine, politics, teaching, and scholarship. The philosophy department’s multidisciplinary nature attracts top scholars to pursue projects that engage the entire community.

PHILOSOPHY AND THE PROFESSIONS

As professions have begun to reflect more self-consciously on the ethical dimensions of their fields, the Department of Philosophy has responded by designing a series of courses addressing the ethical and moral issues that arise in specific professional settings.

Introduction to Engineering Ethics; Ethical Conflicts in Health Care; Medical Ethics (in collaboration with Ohio State’s medical college); Logic for Lawyers; and a new course focusing on specific ethical issues involved in information and computing technology, examine contemporary issues in these fields.
WHY SUPPORT PHILOSOPHY?
Alumna Louise Vigoda, a Denver real estate investor, and her husband Phil, worried that Americans too often lack critical reasoning skills. The Vigodas made a donation that helped fund an ongoing summer course, Don’t Buy the Lies, originally taught at Metro High School, now taught as part of the department’s Campus Summer Term offerings.

CENTER FOR ETHICS AND HUMAN VALUES INNOVATION GROUP
A group of more than 30 faculty from departments across the campus are working to establish an Ohio State Center for Ethics and Human Values (CEHV), to facilitate discussion across the university and broader community on urgent social issues. Many problems of public concern have a core ethical component that is all too frequently addressed in a perfunctory manner or ignored altogether.

The group has received an Innovation Group Award to promote these efforts. Four members of the Department of Philosophy are involved in this effort: Don Hubin, who serves as the principal investigator of the Innovation Group, Piers Turner, Justin D’Arms, and Sigrún Svavarsdóttir.

FACULTY
21 faculty members are top scholars in diverse areas of specialization and cover the basics: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, history of philosophy, logic, aesthetics, moral psychology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of action.

GRADUATE STUDIES
The PhD program is strong in the analytical tradition with several areas of special strengths: Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic; Ethics and Metaethics; Modern Philosophy; Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science; Metaphysics; Moral Psychology; Philosophy of Language; and Action Theory.

CONVERSATION ON MORALITY, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY (COMPAS)
As part of its effort to promote civil and informed debate on important social and political issues, and to bring together researchers, students, and the community, the nascent OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values (CEHV) hosts a series of year-long, university-wide conversations called Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society (COMPAS).

The COMPAS program aims to demonstrate how the university’s comprehensive intellectual resources can be aligned along their ethical dimension to help solve some of the serious problems confronting us. The COMPAS program seeks not only to establish a new, more expansive model for a university ethics center, but to show how ethical concern provides a basis for productive exchange on complex social issues among researchers, and between the University and the community. In 2011-12, the COMPAS program focused on immigration. The 2013-14 COMPAS explores the boundaries between what is public and what is private.