



PROGRAM IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS

Interdisciplinary approach to understanding humans and their social and political interactions

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) is an interdisciplinary concentration program in political economy that stresses analytic rigor and critical reasoning, and is unique in combining normative inquiry, empirical methods, and formal tools of analysis. It integrates the study of the relationships of government, political processes, property, production, markets, trade, and distribution from the standpoint of assessing these arrangements with respect to the interests and progress of humanity. PPE sends a clear message that Michigan's response to difficult economic and political times includes taking a leadership role in challenging the nation to informed discussion about the relationship between the individual and the State. With its training of students for key roles in the public and private sectors, student and faculty research, and associated speakers and special events, Michigan PPE impacts a broad spectrum of decision-makers while influencing public discussion for generations to come.

A PPE concentration at U-M provides students with an integrated and interdisciplinary program of study that brings together three major approaches to understanding individual rights and social and political interactions. PPE exposes students to classical documents in political economy and political philosophy. After completing foundational courses, some students investigate a specific problem with substantial moral, policy, or economic dimensions (e.g., health care, climate change, poverty, agriculture, market organization, and globalization). Others might emphasize overarching themes, such as the bases and reach of international law, freedom and liberty, rights and the justification for and limits of state power.

In order to reach its full potential, PPE must aggressively build on its unique interdisciplinary approach to the fields of philosophy and political economy through a variety of initiatives that strengthen its foundation. By attracting scholars from around the world and across the nation through a visiting scholar program, we can raise our profile while offering our students new perspectives. A Seminar Series will also allow us to draw leaders in their fields to our campus, encouraging intellectual exchange. To attract the very brightest graduate students, we must be able to offer assistantships and financial support to attend graduate school without the added burden of severe debt.

CO-CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT

Donor support is needed for a wide range of activities that attract bright undergraduate students and enhance the undergraduate curriculum. Endowed gifts of \$500,000, or \$25,000 annually, will support undergraduate programs, travel funds for students attending conferences and national meetings, and participation in international summer internships. Support is also needed to fund civic activities that enhance learning and research about political economy.

ENDOWED PRACTITIONER FELLOWSHIP

Funding is needed to host a visiting fellow for several weeks each year to expand and bring fresh perspectives to PPE. We envision a highly prestigious fellowship awarded to a scholar, leader, practitioner, or entrepreneur with a background in Philosophy and Political Economy, who would spend a week or more on campus, deliver a guest lecture in a PPE course multi-day intensive seminar, and meet with students and faculty. Bringing distinguished leaders to campus is a critical priority to establish PPE as a thought leader that stimulates and advances intellectual discussion, and reaches beyond academia to learn about the relationship of the individual, the economic environment, and the State. An endowed gift of \$1M would provide the support needed and would also give a donor the opportunity to name the fellowship. Gifts of \$50,000 could support this on an annual basis.



**“Whether it is doing
econometric work in my job
as a data analyst, learning
about the history of my new
home, Chicago, or scrolling
through a news article on
my phone, I am not sure I
ever turn my PPE brain off.
Each of the three
disciplines I studied shaped
who I am and how I think.”**

—Charles Butz, B.S. '21



NAMED PROFESSORSHIP

Endowed professorships, or chairs, have long been recognized as both a hallmark of academic quality and a means by which a university honors its most esteemed scholars and teachers. Professorships are reserved for scholars of national, or even international, stature, with highly distinguished records of teaching, research, and publication. They constitute a time-honored way to recruit or retain highly distinguished scholars with exceptional records of achievement. The naming opportunity for an endowed professorship is \$2.5M

NAMED CENTER

An endowment to fund a cluster of faculty positions and program support would enable PPE to establish a leadership status among universities across the nation. According to Dr. Elizabeth Anderson, Michigan PPE is distinctive in the field. “Not a mere collection of existing courses, it integrates questions and subject matter across three areas. Political economy originated in the 18th century as the integrated study of the relationships of government, political processes, property, production, markets, trade and distribution. At that time, economics, political science, and philosophy were not yet distinct disciplines. Although philosophy, economics, and political science have since taken divergent paths, they have continued to pursue common interests in developing the themes, methods, and concerns of political economy.” A Named Center in PPE, at a cost of \$10M, will bring top scholars together to tease out ideas and bring together knowledge and methods from all three disciplines to create new synergies and learning. Graduate fellowships will train tomorrow’s educators in this critically important interdisciplinary work. Endowed funding for a Named Center will include support for three faculty positions, program support, and two graduate fellowships.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college’s rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what’s next, for a better tomorrow.

A series of parallel yellow diagonal lines of varying lengths, creating a decorative graphic element.

for what’s next ▶

Look to Michigan

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