

Dear Graduating Seniors,

Your years of hard work are now culminating with a bachelor's degree from UVM — congratulations! You have come a long way from your first days at UVM, and we're hoping the challenges you faced, and the successes you've had, have helped prepare you for a world that is more complex and more divided than any previous generation has faced. Because a philosophy major does not train people for a specific profession but instead develops oral and written skills and above all better critical reasoning, philosophy majors have many career options — for example, in business, medicine, and government, to name a few — and flexibility in choosing their own path.

The end of your years at UVM has given you special challenges with the turn to remote education. We have all struggled to maintain a productive learning environment in the face of difficult disruptions. But we have come through it together. We are especially saddened, though, that you cannot have the traditional end-of-the-year celebratory ceremony that comes with graduation.

One thing nice about the philosophy department's location in a historic house is how it fosters a sense of family among the faculty and philosophy majors. We have a dedicated seminar room for seminars and a parlor where many majors often 'chill' between classes. And what may not be obvious to students is that we faculty come to know our majors and develop a genuine interest and care for their studies and their lives. So if you're in the area in the future, please do drop by for a visit and to let us know what you're doing. Or you can drop us a postcard or an email; we enjoy hearing from our alumni. We faculty of the philosophy department are proud of you and wish you well!