

## Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

An annual, two-day conference held over a weekend each spring (April), attracting students from across the country and internationally. Since 1997, more than 1,400 students from over 350 schools have participated in our conference.

These students represent all 50 U.S. states as well as a number of Canadian provinces and several other countries. All of the participants are undergraduate students, with the exception of the annual keynote address by a renowned philosopher. Past keynote speakers have included Paul Churchland, Hilary Putnam, John Searle, Keith Lehrer, Catherine Elgin, John Perry, Hubert Dreyfus, Jerry Fodor, Alvin Plantinga, Cora Diamond, James Sterba, Peter Kivy, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, and Daniel Dennett.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for the presentation of philosophical work of undergraduates to their peers.

**Submission Guidelines:** Papers are required to be of philosophical content, but there are no specific restrictions on subject matter within the arena of philosophical discussion itself. Papers should be approximately 3,000 words (10-12 pages).

Electronic submissions (as Word documents) are required and should include both the paper and an abstract (that is, a 100-200 word summary of the paper).

Selected papers from the conference will be published in Volume 7 (2016) of the journal *Res Cogitans*.

### **Typical Conference Schedule:**

**Friday** -- Registration and banquet

**Saturday** – Student presentation sessions, Keynote presentation, Conference breakfast and luncheon.

For more information see: <http://www.pacificu.edu/current-undergraduate/academics/majors-minors/philosophy/undergraduate-philosophy-conference>

## Additional Information | Philosophy Conference

**Paper Presentations:** Each session has either two or three papers based on a common topic (such as philosophy of language or ethics, etc.). Each paper is allotted 45 minutes. Of that time, about 20 minutes will be for the author to present his/her paper. This usually involves actually reading the paper to the audience, but if you prefer you can "talk through" the paper. The rest of the 45 minutes is for questions and discussion. It's difficult to say exactly how many people will be in the audience. There will be nine or ten different sessions going at the same time (ten different classrooms), but with over 100 people there, you can expect 10-20 people at your session. Of course, sometimes it can be fewer than 10 or more than 20; it depends on what people want to go listen to.

**Chairing a Session:** If you are willing to be a session chair, view the [conference schedule](#) and select the session that you would like to chair. Email [boersema@pacificu.edu](mailto:boersema@pacificu.edu) with your selection. Once the email is received, you will be posted as the chair and sent the relevant papers from that session. Each paper session includes two or three papers. The session chair will need to read those papers prior to the conference and prepare one or two questions to ask, in order to begin the discussion, following each author's presentation of his/her paper. The session chair is also the timekeeper of the session. The chair needs to begin and end the session on time as well as make sure that each author stays within the appropriate time limit of his/her individual paper.

**Friday Banquet:** The banquet on Friday evening will be in the MPR, which is in the lower level of Washburn Hall, also known as the University Center. Saturday breakfast and lunch will also be held in the MPR. The banquet is a casual occasion.

**Food:** If you have any special dietary restrictions, please let me know. We always provide meat, vegetarian, and vegan meals. Remember that we will provide the Friday banquet (which starts at 6 p.m.) plus Saturday breakfast (from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.) and lunch (from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.). The actual paper sessions will run on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Travel:** The conference is located on [Pacific University's main campus](#) located in Forest Grove, Oregon, 22 miles west of downtown Portland. For those who are driving, the preferred route to campus from Portland is via Highway 26 (Sunset Highway), turning south at Banks (via Highways 6 and 47). For those who are flying, you will need to fly into [Portland International Airport](#) (PDX).