Jacob Nofal

Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri
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Area of Specialization: Social Epistemology, Epistemology, Philosophy of Complexity
Area of Competence: Applied Ethics, Meta Ethics, Philosophy of Science

Education

University of Missouri, Ph.D. in Philosophy

2024-Expected in 2029

My dissertation examines the implications of social complexity for how we ought to form and acquire beliefs.

Virginia Tech, M.A. in Philosophy

Aug 2021-May 2023

Virginia Tech, B.A. in Philosophy

Aug 2019-May 2022

Secondary focus (30+ credits) in strategic communications

Teaching

Missouri Scholars Academy

Summer 2026- Present

I teach philosophy to gifted high school students in the summer. I teach a course on The Ethics of Belief and another on Philosophy in the 21st Century.

Primary Instructor, University of Missouri

Aug 2025-Dec 2025

Philosophy 1100 The Difference Between Right and Wrong: Introduction to Ethics

ELA Teacher, McKinley Technology Educational Campus

2023-2024 School year

I was a primary teacher for 6th and 7th grade English in a STEM focused secondary school.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Missouri, Aug 2024-May 2025
Philosophy 2440 Medical Ethics

Virginia Tech, Aug 2022-May 2023
Philosophy 1204 Knowledge and Reality, Philosophy 3324 Biomedical Ethics, and Philosophy 1204 Morality and Justice

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Research Assistantships

CASCade research assistant for Hannah Rubin

University of Missouri

Jan 2026-Present

I collaborate with an interdisciplinary research team focused on understanding how complexity science can inform our understanding of social problems.

Curriculum design research assistant for Jordan MacKenzie

Virginia Tech

Jan 2023-May 2023

Helped develop materials and pedagogy for a course on social identity.

Presentations

Duke-UNC annual Philosophy Conference 2025

Paper: “The Need for Refinement in Triaging against Algorithmic Leviathans”

University of Calgary annual Philosophy Conference 2025

Paper: “The Need for Refinement in Triaging against Algorithmic Leviathans”

The Great Lakes Philosophy Conference 2023

Paper: “Epistemic Insouciance is Not a Moral VIce”

The Ethics of Business, Trade, and Global Governance 2022

Paper: “Epistemic Insouciance is Not a Moral VIce”

Graduate Research Showcase at Virginia Tech 2022

Paper: “A Duty to Deceive? Using New and Deceptive Technologies to Enhance the Lives of Dementia Patients”

Departmental Service & Public Philosophy

Collegiate Ethics Bowl Coach 2025-Present

Raised over $5500 to date from four different sources to fund expenses related to the competition. We took first place in our first regional competition.

High School Ethics Bowl Judge 2024-Present

Conference Chaired Sessions

Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University, 2023

Awards and Honors

BA/MA Graduate Scholarship- $3000

Mizzou Graduate Scholarship- $1500

Graduate Courses Taken

Virginia Tech:

Phil 5204 Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics Fall 2021

Phil 5224 Intermediate Epistemology Fall 2021

Phil 5324 Metaethics Fall Spring 2022

Phil 6014 History of Analytic Philosophy Spring 2022

Phil 5505 Symbolic Logic Fall 2022

Phil 5204 Topics in the History of Philosophy Fall 2022

STS 5444 Issues in Bioethics Spring 2023

Phil 6324 Adv Topics Ethics and Politics Spring 2023

University of Missouri:

Phil 8100 Protoseminar in Philosophy Fall 2024

Phil 9820 Epistemology Fall 2024

Phil 7850 Special Readings in Philosophy (Focus on Epistemic Diversity) Fall 2024

Phil 9610 Metaphysics Spring 2025

Phil 7500 Theories of Ethics Spring 2025

Phil 9120 The Empiricist Spring 2025

Grad 9075 Research Outreach Fall 2025

Phil 9830 Philosophy of Science Fall 2025

Phil 9520 Ethical Theory Spring 2026

Phil 9830 Philosophy of (big) Science Spring 2026

Grad 9070 Public Engagement Fall 2026

Phil 9110 The Rationalist Fall 2026

References available upon request