

MINORITIES & PHILOSOPHY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

Loyola University Chicago



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DESIGN AND REPORT PREPARATION

This report was prepared by Rebecca Valeriano-Flores and Claire Lockard in July 2020. It was designed using Canva.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ORGANIZERS

The second year of our MAP chapter was extraordinary in many ways. As the membership of our mentorship program grew quickly, we also started to grasp the proportions of the global pandemic we are still experiencing while also bearing witness to and rising up against the violence against Black people in the US and across the globe. Our MAP Mentorship Program is open to all people from underrepresented groups in the discipline and at different levels of their academic career. But the events of the last academic year, and the circumstances leading up to these events, do not affect us all in the same way. As we carry MAP into a third year, it will be important for us to consider how we can continue to build solidarity across different experiences and identities and what doing so requires of our MAP chapter, department, and discipline. As organizers we see it as our task to not foreclose these questions with ready-made answers but rather to make sure that we sit with these questions and keep them open for ongoing engagements and challenges. And we hope that these engagements and challenges will take many forms, as our programming has done thus far and as is illustrated in this 2019-20 report. In addition to fondly remembering the many exchanges we had throughout the last academic year both in person and virtually, we are also incredibly proud of the MAP students that are part of the graduating class of 2020.

Rebecca Valeriano-Flores
GRADUATE STUDENT & LEAD ORGANIZER

Dr. Jacqueline Scott
FACULTY SPONSOR

Dr. Hanne Jacobs
FACULTY SPONSOR

Faculty Sponsors

Hanne Jacobs
Jacqueline Scott

Graduate Mentors

Katherine Brichacek
Robert Budron
Abram Capone
Jean Clifford
Pippa Friedman
Gina Lebkuecher
Claire Lockard
Rebecca Valeriano-Flores

Special Thanks

Mark Waymack

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

CONGRATS MAP GRADS!

"Enthusiasm for lifelong learning is promoted by critical thinking. Embedded in this understanding is the practical wisdom that helps us remember that ideas are not fixed and static but always subject to change."

- bell hooks, Teaching Critical Thinking

Congratulations to our graduating MAP students! We hope that your time in MAP has helped you develop the critical thinking skills and sustain the kind of enthusiasm for lifelong learning that hooks describes above. MAP has benefitted immensely from your engagement! We are grateful for your participation in and contribution to MAP during your time at Loyola and we cannot wait to hear about the great things you do!

YOUSSEF BUTLER
ANNA DEXTER
ZOA GLAB
KOUKI KUBOTA
MIA MONE GARCIA
FRANSUA GRADIZ
JULISSA JUAREZ
SOPHIA TODOROV
CHANTÉ WILSON



MIA MONE GARCIA



KOUKI KUBOTA



SOPHIA TODOROV



CHANTÉ WILSON

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNDERGRADUATE

Samantha Chipman was awarded a 2020-21 Ricci Scholarship for her research on Italian and Vietnamese religious ritual practices and burial rites. Inspired by her Chinese heritage, her project draws from her interest in Chinese philosophy and connecting with cultures around the globe.

Anna Dexter was awarded Outstanding Philosophy Senior for 2019-20.

Scholastique Iradukunda was accepted as an Iris Marion Young Diversity Scholar at PIKSI-Rock 2020.

Barni Nuur was awarded Outstanding Philosophy Junior, John F. Grant 2020 Award Winner for her work on epistemic ignorance that exists within individual interactions between medical professionals and patients of color and a LUROP Provost Fellowship for 2020-21 to work on her research on how epistemic injustice leads to unjust outcomes for marginalized patients in medicine.

DEPARTMENTAL

Undergraduate MAP Assistant: MAP proposed and was approved for a paid undergraduate MAP position in the Spring!

New Critical Philosophy of Race

Faculty: Many MAP students are interested in critical philosophy of race, so we were thrilled to meet the candidates and attend job talks. We're excited for the new faculty members joining the department next year!

GRADUATE

Katherine Brichacek was awarded a Teaching Fellowship for 2020-21 and a summer research award from the Philosophy Department.

Robert Budron was featured on the panel "Outsiders Within: Reflections on Being a First-Generation and/or Low-Income Philosopher" at the 2020 Eastern Division Meeting of the APA. He was also awarded the departmental teaching award here at Loyola.

Gina Lebkuecher chaired the APA session on "Ritual, Etiquette, and Everyday Aesthetics" and co-presented (with Freya Möbus) a poster on "Socratic Leadership" at the AAPT/APA Teaching Hub.

Claire Lockard was selected as a Graduate Assistant for the 2020 session of Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute. She also received a summer research award from the Philosophy Department.

Pippa Friedman had a paper on Watsuji's Rinrigaku accepted for presentation at SPEP. She also had a paper on capitalism, democracy, and epistemic injustice accepted for presentation at NASSP.

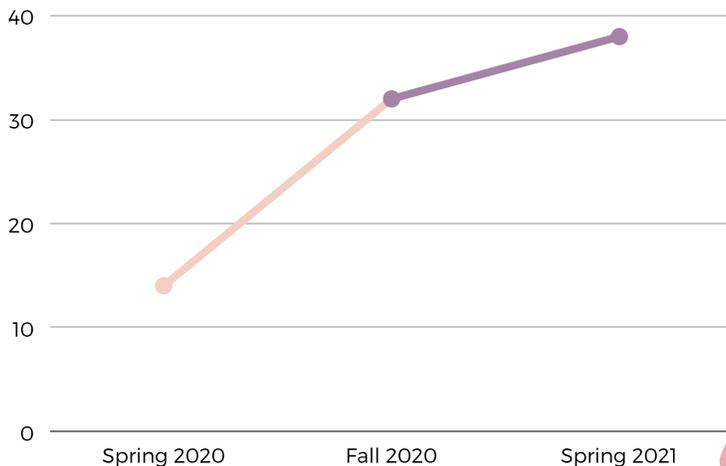
Rebecca Valeriano-Flores received the 2020 Attoh Award for Diversity and Inclusion from the Graduate School and her presentation on MAP and high-impact practices was accepted to the AAPT conference.

PROGRAMMING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The MAP Mentorship Program paired undergraduate students from marginalized groups with graduate student mentors. We publicized this program through flyers, mass e-mails, and class announcements. Students signed up using an online application, then were paired with a mentor based on interests and availability. The program is open to all undergraduate students from underrepresented groups (BIPOC students, LGBTQIA+ students, students with disabilities, and women), regardless of major or minor. This year, mentees received assistance on coursework, joined reading groups, worked with their mentors on research projects and presentations, attended philosophy talks and events, discussed graduate school and the profession, and went on group trips to neighboring universities. MAP philosophy majors were also given the option to have our faculty sponsors, Dr. Hanne Jacobs and Dr. Jacqueline Scott, serve as their faculty advisor.

Number of Undergraduates Signed Up
for the MAP Mentorship Program at End of Semester



32

UNDERGRAD
MENTEES

8

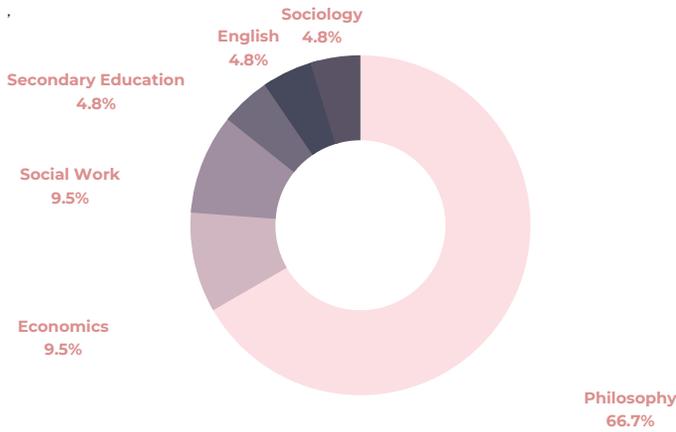
GRADUATE
MENTORS

10

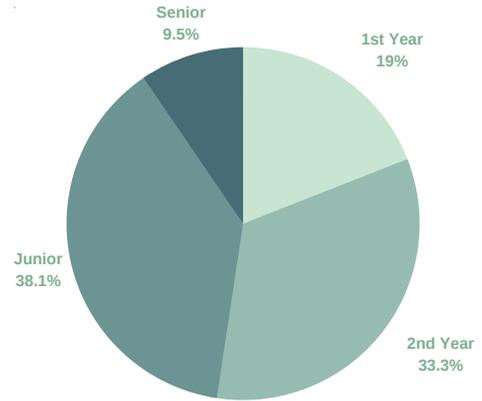
LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS
SIGNED UP FOR THE
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
MORE THAN DOUBLED
SINCE LAST ACADEMIC
YEAR!

**MAJORS OF
 UNDERGRADUATE MENTEES**



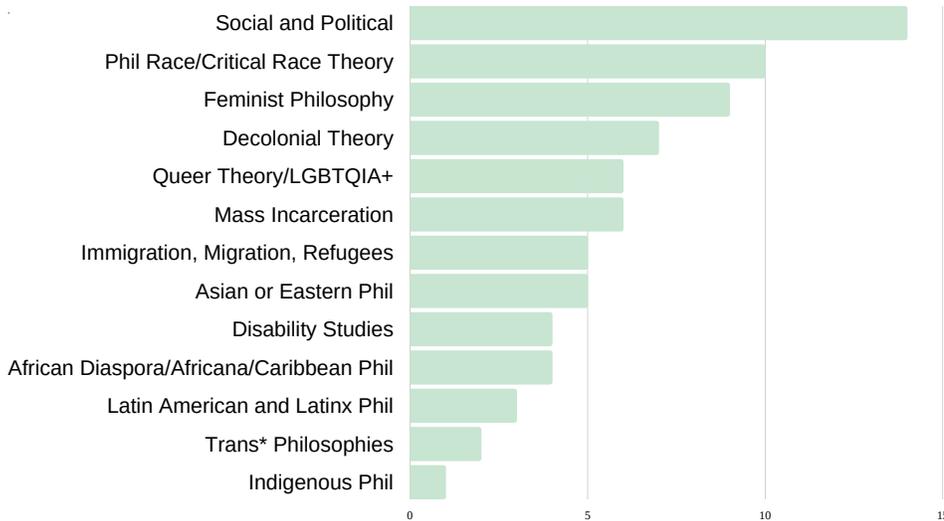
**YEAR OF
 UNDERGRADUATE MENTEES**



SECOND MAJOR

Many of our students had second majors in Criminal Justice (3), History, Political Science, Psychology, Film & Digital Media, Finance, Political Science, English, Global & Internatoinal Studies, Bioethics, Chinese

AREAS OF INTEREST



OTHER INTERESTS

Students also listed interest in philosophy of law (7), epistemology (6), existentialism (6), metaphysics (5), philosophy of mind (4), aesthetics (3), ethics (2), bioethics (2), philosophy of technology (2), phenomenology/critical phenomenology (2), philosophy of religion (2), critical theory, Kant, philosophy of science, philosophy of education, environmental philosophy, and philosophy of language.

My experience in the MAP program was amazing. What I loved most about it was the sense of community.

- A MENTEE

I look forward to continuing to be part of the MAP lounge. It has taught me so much about learning, and the process of engaging with philosophical readings/thought.

- A MENTEE

MAP has been quite a central part of the last three semesters of university for me. I greatly enjoyed my time as part of MAP and will miss it dearly.

- A MENTEE

What did you like best about MAP? Personalized attention to what I need to succeed as a student, access to resources and the company of other students in a similar position to mine, and relevance of programming to my areas of interest.

- A MENTEE

Before joining MAP, I did not know there was much of a philosophy community at Loyola. But now I recognize familiar faces and know where to turn with questions or concerns, which has been very helpful.

- A MENTEE

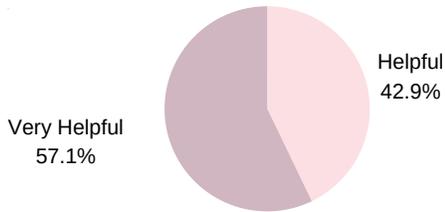
I'm the first in my family to be studying Philosophy in this capacity so having a program like MAP (additional resources) to support me in this process helped a lot.

- A MENTEE

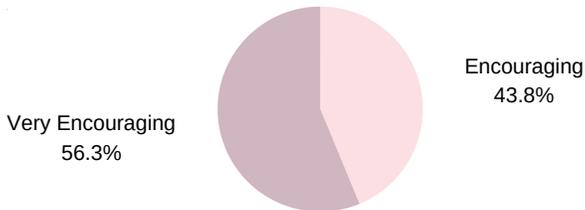
PROGRAMMING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

MENTOR & ADVISOR FEEDBACK

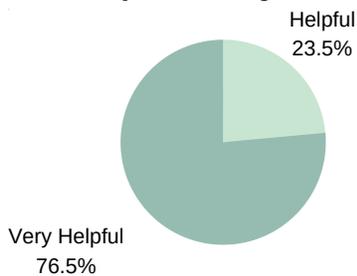
How helpful was your mentor?



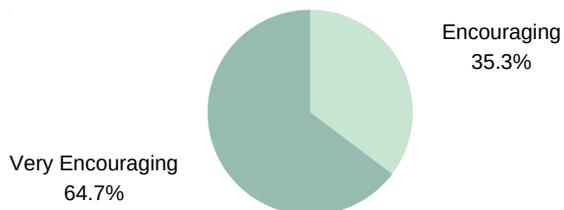
How encouraging was your mentor?



How helpful was your advisor?



How encouraging was your advisor?



[My mentor] was very helpful as I was navigating my first year as a Philosophy major.

MENTOR FEEDBACK

Simply the best, always available for feedback/questions and invested in my success.

MENTOR FEEDBACK

Dr. Jacobs and Dr. Scott were pillars of support and made philosophy more accessible which was impactful in my experience as a student, especially since I'm the first person in my family to study philosophy.

FACULTY ADVISOR FEEDBACK

Very helpful, always available to help and talk philosophy!

FACULTY ADVISOR FEEDBACK

MAP LOUNGE

OVERVIEW

This year, we started a new weekly drop-in program called MAP Lounge! MAP Lounge is a designated time and place where MAP members (grad, undergrad, and occasionally faculty) meet up to chat about all things philosophy. Students use this time and space to study, ask each other for help with classes, grab free food and drinks, meet with others for workshops and reading groups, and more! At least one graduate student mentor was present at each MAP Lounge. MAP students cleared out, decorated, and stocked a conference room previously used for storage to make their own space within the department.

MAP LOUNGE CREATED A HOME FOR STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT, ALLOWING US TO BUILD COMMUNITY BY MEETING OTHER STUDENTS, ENGAGING WITH GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND NOURISHING OURSELVES WITH FOOD AND DRINKS.

I loved the space, I think despite it being a small one it was so fruitful and exciting to visit.

MAP LOUNGE FEEDBACK

I think that MAP lounge was a great addition because it made the program's resources and community more accessible. I feel like I was able to make the most of the program since time spent in the lounge helped me build relationships with other members of the community that would not have been possible (at least not in the same capacity) if we only met for talks and department events.

MAP LOUNGE FEEDBACK

MAP Lounge was incredibly helpful in building community with others in the program.

MAP LOUNGE FEEDBACK

PROGRAMMING

READING GROUPS

THIS YEAR, MAP STUDENTS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN STUDYING AREAS OF PHILOSOPHY THAT RELATED TO DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMING, THAT EXPANDED ON MATERIAL FROM THEIR CLASSES, AND/OR THAT THEY HAD NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO EXPLORE IN CLASS OR ON THEIR OWN. IN RESPONSE, WE FORMED VARIOUS READING GROUPS.

ZEN PHILOSOPHY

Led by graduate student Pippa Friedman, the group has spent the year covering seminal texts in modern (post-Restoration) Japanese Buddhist philosophy. We have thus far read and discussed: (1) Zen Master Suzuki's *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, a primer on Zen and Zen practice, (2) Nishida Kitaro's *An Inquiry Into The Good*, a thorough-going examination of Zen metaphysics, and we are now part of the way into (3) Watsuji Tetsuro's *Rinrigaku*, a ground-breaking work in social ethics. Next, we plan to read Nishitani Keiji's *Religion and Nothingness*, a work of Japanese existentialism.

This reading group was formed to allow MAP mentees (and mentors!) to explore the complexity and heterogeneity of Japanese thought; too often, philosophy departments truncate East Asian thought to a few key figures or texts in Chinese philosophy, but we have learned over the course of this year that Japanese philosophy can be a rich site for both critique and innovation. Modern Japanese philosophy in particular engages a plurality of both East Asian philosophical resources and Western ones, which has helped to deepen our understanding of even some familiar ideas and texts.

JOSÉ MEDINA, "EPISTEMIC ACTIVISM AND THE POLITICS OF CREDIBILITY" POP-UP GROUP

In October, Dr. José Medina (Northwestern University) came to give a talk on campus. To familiarize ourselves with his work and prepare questions to ask him during the Q&A, MAP mentors Rebecca Valeriano-Flores and Claire Lockard facilitated a one-time reading workshop. MAP mentors and mentees met to discuss Dr. Medina's essay, "Epistemic Activism and the Politics of Credibility: Testimonial Injustice Inside/Outside a North Carolina Jail."

FEMINIST, QUEER, CRIP MINI-READING GROUP

During one of the final weeks prior to Spring's campus closure, a group of mentors and mentees met to discuss a chapter from Allison Kafer's book, *Feminist, Queer, Crip*. We worked to understand what it means for time to be queer, how the word "queer" can have both an open and specific definition, and what role the future plays in queer temporalities, particularly as they are experienced and theorized by people with disabilities.

EVENTS

WORKSHOPS

GRADUATE STUDENTS AND FACULTY HELD A NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS AIMED AT IMPROVING STUDY SKILLS, NAVIGATING UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, AND CHOOSING PHILOSOPHY CLASSES!

MAP WELCOME & ORIENTATION

SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

At this meeting, all MAP students gathered to get to know each other, graduate student mentors, and faculty! We discussed the MAP program, introduced MAP Lounge, and gauged interest in upcoming events. Together, we drafted our MAP group agreement and discussed the purpose of MAP: to build community among students from underrepresented groups in philosophy.

READING & TAKING NOTES IN PHILOSOPHY

OCTOBER 4, 2019

Graduate student Katherine Brichacek ran a workshop on best practices for reading and note taking in philosophy. This workshop helped students format and organize notes and, when needed, minimize time spent reading while maximizing comprehension.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

OCTOBER 10, 2019

This workshop, led by faculty members and fellow MAP students, discussed how to apply for research fellowships and introduced resources from the Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs office.

WRITING WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

At this workshop, led by graduate student Gina Lebkuecher, students learned skills for writing a philosophical paper.

REGISTRATION Q&A

NOVEMBER 4, 2019

This workshop, led by Dr. Hanne Jacobs, helped students choose which philosophy classes to choose for next semester by providing class syllabi, schedules, and advising.

APPLYING FOR GRAD SCHOOL IN PHILOSOPHY

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

This workshop, led by Dr. Jacqueline Scott and Dr. Hanne Jacobs, discussed choosing, applying to, and attending graduate school in philosophy for undergraduate juniors and seniors.

EVENTS

TALKS, TRIPS, AND SCREENINGS

**IN THE FALL SEMESTER,
WE TOOK GROUP TRIPS
TO PHILOSOPHY TALKS
AND SOCIAL EVENTS ON
AND OFF CAMPUS!**

JOSÉ MEDINA INVITED TALK

OCTOBER 2, 2019

The Philosophy Department brought Dr. José Medina (Walter Hill Scott Professor of Philosophy at Northwestern University) to campus for a talk on the phenomenon of communicative and epistemic neglect. Mundelein Palm Court was filled to capacity and MAP students engaged in a rich discussion with Dr. Medina!

CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF RACE JOB TALKS AND MEET & GREETINGS

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 2020

MAP students attended critical philosophy of race talks by William Paris, Eyo Ewara, Jesús Luzardo, and Emma Velez! In addition to the talks, MAP students had special MAP meet and greet sessions with Dr. Paris and Dr. Ewara.

FALL GROUP TRIP: GEORGE YANCY TALK & DINNER

OCTOBER 4, 2019

For our Fall group trip, we went to Northwestern University to see a powerful talk by Dr. George Yancy, "The Loss of White Innocence." After the talk, we attended Northwestern's reception and then went to Joy Yee Noodle in Evanston to share dinner and discuss the talk!

MAP FILM SCREENING: *GET OUT*

NOVEMBER 22, 2019

We screened Jordan Peele's film *Get Out* with MAP students and friends! After the film, grad student Robert Budron led a discussion on themes of philosophy of race and philosophy of mind over pizza.

GRAD STUDENT DINNER

DECEMBER 4, 2019

Graduate students and faculty members came together to have dinner at Indie Cafe to celebrate the hard work of our grad student mentors and to discuss mentorship in the MAP program.

FINALS WEEK R&R

DECEMBER 11, 2019

This "rest and relaxation" session was held in MAP Lounge during the finals week study day. Students stopped by for coffee and donuts and to take a break from our busy finals week!

ORGANIZATION GROUP AGREEMENT

OVERVIEW

In our orientation meetings at the beginning of each fall and spring, MAP members discuss and revise our Group Agreement. The group agreement outlines commitments we have about how we will engage with, include, and ask questions of one another. This Spring, we added the “take space, make space” guideline. Rather than asking members to pay attention to how much we are speaking and scale this back if we notice that we are taking up too much space, we will instead be thinking more broadly about who might have the experiential and epistemic grounds to take up more space in a conversation (particularly if they’ve been prevented from taking this space in other contexts). We follow the group agreement guidelines at MAP Lounge, in one-on-one meetings between mentors and mentees, and at our MAP workshops and events.



GROUP AGREEMENT

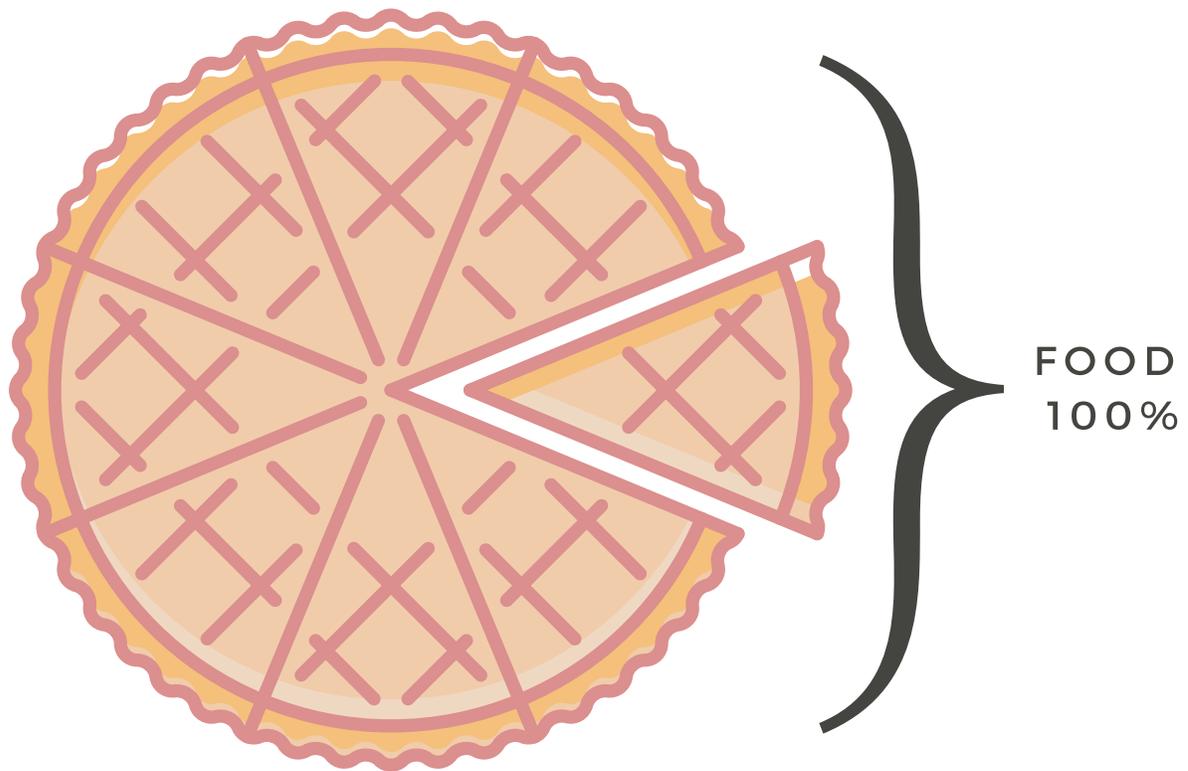
- 1. Ask, don't assume:** if you aren't sure where someone is coming from, ask them to clarify instead of assuming that everyone's on the same page.
- 2. What happens here, stays here** (respect everyone's privacy—what we talk about here should stay here).
- 3. Call each other in** (rather than calling someone out) and be open to being called in.
- 4. Feel free to let one another know if something does not work for you.**
- 5. Accountability**—take responsibility for your actions.
- 6. A safe space to talk**, as well as have in-depth conversations with peers.
- 7. Sympathetic listening.**
- 8. Be a croissant, not a bagel** (avoid staying in cliques and only talking to your friends—include others, especially if you see that they're by themselves; imagine standing in an open half-circle rather than a closed circle).
- 9. Assume best intentions.**
- 10. Yes, and** (rather than “no, but”).
- 11. One rockstar, one mic** (don't interrupt or have side conversations).
- 12. Take space, make space** (also known as “step up, step back”). Sometimes we need to take space when we normally wouldn't have a chance to (“step up”)—this could mean speaking up in a discussion when you're usually quiet. Sometimes we need to be mindful of how much space we're taking up in the group and make space for others (“step back”).

ORGANIZATION BUDGET & SPENDING

OVERVIEW

This year, MAP focused on spending money in ways that help build community and camaraderie among members. Rather than holding a MAP essay contest with a monetary prize that goes to just a few students, we spent our money on food for each orientation meeting, MAP Lounge Hours session, and workshop/reading group. In our proposed budget, we planned some non-food purchases for the Spring semester but were unable to hold these programs or use these funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MAP 2019-20 BUDGET PIE CHART



MOVING FORWARD

TWO SETS OF CHALLENGES

1. PROGRAM GROWTH

The first is related to our program's growth. At the end of the 2018-2019 school year, MAP had 17 undergraduate mentees signed up for the program. Now, at the end of the 2019-20 school year, MAP has 32 mentees. We are so excited about the growing interest in MAP! The program's continued growth has presented some questions about what the mentorship program should look like. With 8 mentors and 32 mentees, making time for individualized attention to each student has become increasingly challenging. The MAP Lounge hours have helped students connect with several different MAP mentors, but we are working to ensure that we provide one-on-one guidance and mentorship that undergraduate members need without placing too much on mentors' plates.

2. COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Our second challenge has emerged during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Although many students (quite understandably) are not able to prioritize MAP participation at this time, we are looking for ways to make MAP programming and resources available to those who want or need it. Much of the community-building and collaboration of MAP is made possible by in-person interactions and conversations, and this dynamic has proven difficult to translate into virtual programming and events.



LOOKING FORWARD

For the 2020-2021 school year, the MAP mentees, mentors, and faculty sponsors have been in discussion about programming around the ongoing movement against anti-Black racism and police brutality. We are interested in reading philosophic texts—and texts from other disciplines—about police and prison abolition, Afrofuturism, and anti-racist activism. Some MAP members have expressed interest in sponsoring open MAP events to help educate others about issues of anti-Black racism, and others are interested in digging deeper into questions about institutional complicity with structures and histories of racism and taking action within and outside the university. We are all thinking about ways that MAP members can support one another as protests—and the COVID-19 pandemic—continue.



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UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

