

The Bowl is not just a competitive Bake-Off.

It's a cooperative Bake-In.

2025-2026

Michigan High School Ethics Bowl

Timeline/Guidelines For Faculty and Philosopher Coaches

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September 2025

Coaching preparations:

A2Ethics provides a list of 2025-26 current and new Bowl League schools to U-M Bowl coordinators. Faculty coaches check-in.

U-M Ethics Bowl coordinators recruit philosopher coaches; determine philosopher coaches' availability; contact school faculty coaches and decide on practice times and teaching access, e.g., in-person, online or hybrid; and assign coaches to schools

Mid-September 2025

All 2026 Bowl Case Studies, known as the National HS Ethics Bowl Regional Case Set, distributed to participating schools.

Late September 2025

Coaching begins:

Philosopher coaches and faculty coaches agree on a schedule of at least eight 90 minute coaching sessions to take place, beginning in October and ending just before Bowl weekend: Saturday, January 31 and Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Philosopher coaches and faculty coaches also agree on a rough syllabus – e.g., will the first few sessions be devoted to ethical theory, or will the team delve straight into the case studies?

Teams meet virtually/in-person/both with their philosopher coaches and begin preparing for Michigan Ethics Bowl Thirteen!

Saturday, September 27, 2025 (In-person)
Sunday, October 5, 2025 (Online)

Bowl Season Launch – Meet other School Teams, Philosopher Coaches and Bowl Volunteers.
In person event Venue/Time: University of Michigan—Mason Hall, Rooms 2306 & 2305 from 2-4pm.

Online event Venue/Time: Zoom from 2-4pm.

October 10, 2025

Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy High School Student Presentation Submission Deadline.

October-Late November

Coaching continues:

Teams meet online/in-person for practice sessions and discussions.
Revisions to the schedule proposed by either the faculty coach or the philosopher coach should be agreed on at least 1 week in advance, with the exception of last-minute emergency cancellations, which should be communicated as quickly as possible.

November 8-9, 2025 (In-Person)

Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy (UCiP) High School Student Presentations. A2Ethics Best Paper Prize Announcement.

December 2025

Coaching continues:

Teams meet online/in-person for practice sessions and discussions.
Revisions to the schedule proposed by either the faculty coach or the philosopher coach should be agreed on at least 1 week in advance, with the exception of last-minute emergency cancellations, which should be communicated as quickly as possible.

Late December 2025-Early January 2026

Winter Break.

January 2026

Coaching Resumes and Final Practice Sessions for Bowl 13.

January 31, 2026 (In-Person)
February 1, 2026 (In-Person)

Opening Rounds of Michigan High School Ethics Bowl Thirteen at Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Saturday.

Quarter, Semi and Final of Michigan High School Ethics Bowl Thirteen at Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Sunday.

Mid-February 2026 (Online)

Virtual Central Divisional Playoffs-Dates/Times TBA.

Great Lakes Philosophy Conference HIgh School Student Paper Submission Deadline
TBA.

March 2026

National Case Study Competition Deadline Date TBA.

April 10-12 2026 (In-Person)

National High School Ethics Bowl-University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

April 13, 2026 (Online)

A2Ethics Michigan High School Ethics Case Writing Competition Deadline.

April 17-19, 2026 (Online)

Online Great Lakes Philosophy Conference High School Student Papers/Presentations. A2Ethics Best Paper Prize Award Announcement.

May 15, 2026 (Online)

A2Ethics Michigan High School Ethics Case Writing Awards Announcement.

Expectations for Faculty Coaches

1. Please understand that in making coaching assignments, we carefully consider a number of criteria, including current and semester teaching loads and other academic/personal obligations, individual scheduling constraints, and the importance of pairing experienced philosopher coaches with less experienced teams. Please do not ask, however, to be paired with a specific philosopher coach.
2. Please stay in close communication with your philosopher coach, strive to maintain a consistent schedule, and convey scheduling changes promptly. Philosopher coaches have busy schedules, just as you and your students do, and they often require considerable advance notice to reschedule commitments. Please make sure the meeting schedule is consistently clear to all parties, and agree ahead of time on the best way to reach each other in case one of you is running late or needs to cancel at the last minute.
3. Faculty coach decisions about team member selections, especially for schools with development and experienced teams, should be mindful of the impact of these decisions on practice sessions and on philosopher coach interactions and commitments. Teams should conduct their practices together so all team members can receive the same number of sessions with their assigned philosopher coaches during the season.
4. On a similar note, if you have two assigned philosopher coaches, please communicate equally with both of them and encourage your students to regard both as helpful sources of expertise.
5. If you are experiencing concerns about coaching relationships in the Bowl program in general, please contact Jeanine DeLay– jadelay@umich.edu --to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

Expectations for Philosopher Coaches

1. Please stay in close communication with your faculty coach, strive to maintain a consistent schedule, and convey scheduling changes promptly. Faculty coaches and high school students have busy schedules, just as you do, and they often require considerable advance notice to reschedule commitments.
2. Please make sure the meeting schedule is consistently clear to all parties, and agree ahead of time on the best way to reach each other in case one of you is running late or needs to cancel at the last minute.
3. Develop a broad teaching strategy as early in the season as possible in consultation with your faculty coach – they will have an experienced and knowledgeable understanding of students' level of familiarity with ethics, and with Ethics Bowl (or related activities), as well as students' learning styles and a range of other situational/contextual factors that may influence your teaching strategy, including new and ongoing issues involving the school and students. Your discussions with your faculty coach should result in a rough plan for how much time you'll spend teaching ethical theory, how much you'll spend discussing case studies, and how much you'll spend practicing for the Bowl.
4. Important considerations in philosopher and coach planning should encompass some broad instructional outcomes, including student familiarity with the main moral theories and student awareness of and knowledge about how to connect general moral principles to a case study's concrete details.

5. As with the practice and meeting schedule, this plan should be clear to all parties, and any subsequent revisions to it should be clearly communicated in a timely manner.
6. If you are one of two philosopher coaches assigned to a single school, please communicate effectively with the other philosopher coach as described in (1) above. Be thoughtful and explicit about how the two of you will coordinate tasks, follow through on your assigned responsibilities, and make sure to convey respect for each other when you are working with students.
7. Philosopher coaches are expected to coach 10-15 hours per season, and out of considerations of fairness are not permitted to coach more than 20 hours per season.
8. If you find that you are being asked to coach more than that, contact Jeanine DeLay and the U-M Ethics Bowl coordinators to let them know. Further, if you have concerns about a coaching relationship, please contact Jeanine DeLay *and* the 2026 U-M Ethics Bowl coordinators (Lindy Lane Featherly, Kiara Gilbert, Ellie Riggsbee), using Lindy's email – lindyo@umich.edu– to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

2025-2026 Safety Expectations for In-person Teaching and Gatherings

Everyone affiliated with the Michigan Bowl is committed to safe in-person gatherings that promote healthy habits, trust and confidence--as guests invited to different venues--and as individuals with obligations to all the communities to which we belong. If, for example, school teams are meeting in person with philosopher coaches, the state and federal safe gathering protocols developed and in effect for Michigan schools for the 2025-2026 academic year should be followed.

A2Ethics volunteers have already marked off Bowl Thirteen weekend, January 31st and February 1st. We can't wait to see Michigan's High School students introduce and discuss together, along with Bowl judges, their ideas, experiences and what everyone has learned in studying the cases during the season. We know that without secondary teacher advisors and philosopher coach volunteers, the Michigan Bowl would not be. We look forward to celebrating the thirteenth year of the Michigan Bowl in 2026 because of you.



