PHILOSOPHY (M.A. & Ph.D.)

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THE PROGRAM
The Graduate Program in Philosophy offers instruction at the Graduate Center leading to the
M.A. and the Ph.D. degrees. The program is designed to provide students with a sound general
training in the history of ancient and modern philosophy and in the main areas of philosophical
inquiry.

The M.A. Degree
The M.A. Program in Philosophy is offered as a terminal degree for students who wish to pre-
pare themselves for admission to Ph.D. programs in philosophy; who wish to pursue interdisci-
plinary studies; who seek certification to teach philosophy at the community college or
secondary school level; and for students who wish to pursue philosophy beyond the undergrad-
uate level for their own personal satisfaction. There is a specialization within the M.A., “Ethics
in Society,” for those who want to concentrate on applied ethics, professional ethics, and ethics
in practice.

The Ph.D. Degree
The Ph.D. program is intended for those who aspire to careers in teaching and research in phi-
losophy at the college and university level. Degree requirements can be adjusted in individual
cases to permit the student to work in related fields. The program encourages well-thought-out
interdisciplinary work for its own sake and for the professional opportunities it may provide.

En-route M.A.
Upon completing 45 credits with an average grade of B, passing the First Examination, and
passing the Second Qualifying Paper, a doctoral student may apply for an en-route M.A. degree.
Those seeking an en-route master’s degree should have the Executive Officer initiate the appro-
priate action.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION
In addition to meeting the general University requirements for admission stated earlier in this
bulletin, the student’s undergraduate preparation should ordinarily include at least 18 credits in
approved courses in Philosophy for admission to the Ph.D. program and at least 15 credits for
admission to the M.A. Exception: the requirement for those specializing in Ethics in Society is at least 9 credits. The Committee on Admissions may waive all or part of this requirement in special cases (e.g., a strong major in a related field).

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS**

The student must follow a program of study approved by an adviser, including a minimum of nine graduate courses.

Students are required to take one course from each of groups A, B, C, D, and E (see course groupings in the Distribution Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy). Up to two courses may be taken in a related program. These courses must contribute to a coherent program and must be approved by the Executive Officer. These distribution requirements may be modified for students pursuing an interdisciplinary program of study in philosophy and an allied discipline.

In the Ethics and Society specialization the courses must be distributed in the following manner: five courses in the area of ethics and society; one course in groups A or B or D or E. Up to three courses may be taken in a related program. These courses must contribute to a coherent program and must be approved by the Executive Officer.

No more than 12 credits may be transferred from other programs. No transfer credits will be approved until the student completes four courses with at least a B+ average. The Executive Officer will determine how many credits the student may transfer.

There is no language requirement.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

In addition to the general University requirements stated earlier in this bulletin, the student must meet the following special requirements in Philosophy.

**First-Year Seminar** In the Fall semester, first-year Ph.D. students are required to take an intensive seminar taught by two instructors. Its aim is to introduce students to high-level philosophical studies through detailed discussions of major philosophical texts. Students will be graded “pass” or “fail.” The seminar is not open to other students.

**Distribution Requirements** Courses are organized into five groups. Group A consists of courses in metaphysics, philosophy of language, philosophy of logic, and mathematics. Group B consists of courses in epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, and philosophy of physics. Group C consists of courses in ethics, political philosophy, aesthetics, and philosophy of law. Group D consists of courses in ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, and modern philosophy. Group E consists of courses in logic.

Students are required to take two courses from each of groups A, B, C, and D, and one course from group E. In group D, one course must be chosen from ancient or medieval philosophy and one from modern philosophy. A student must achieve a grade of at least B+ for a course to count toward satisfying a distribution requirement. The requirement for logic may be satisfied by passing an examination in logic.

**Qualifying Papers** Students will be examined on two Qualifying papers. These should demonstrate the necessary skills for conducting sustained research and writing at the level of professional philosophy. The first, of 5,000 words, is due on the day before the first day of classes of the Spring semester in the student’s second year. The second, of 7,500 words and on a different topic from the first, is due on the day before the first day of classes of the Spring semester in the student’s third year. The student will prepare a Qualifying Paper under the supervision of a faculty member.

**First Examination** Students pass the First Examination upon successful completion of the First-Year Seminar, the First Qualifying Paper, and one course in each group, A to E.

**Second Examination** Students pass the Second Examination upon successful completion of the Second Qualifying Paper and the remaining distribution requirements.

**Foreign Language and Research Techniques** The program has no general language requirement for the doctorate. When a student’s dissertation prospectus committee determines that the topic of the dissertation requires the student to be able to read material in a foreign language, however, the committee will determine the method of satisfying that requirement.
**Dissertation** A dissertation prospectus prepared under the supervision of a faculty member must be approved by a committee of the faculty before the student is advanced to candidacy. After the dissertation has been approved by a dissertation supervisory committee, it must be defended before a committee of the doctoral faculty in a public oral examination.

**Courses**

Unless otherwise stated, all courses are **30 hours plus conferences, 4 credits**.

**Lecture Courses and Seminars**

Topics for these lecture courses and seminars will be announced in advance.

- **PHIL 70500-70900 Lectures on Special Topics**
  - Variable hours, 1–3 credits
- **PHIL 72000 Logic**
- **PHIL 76000-76400 Seminars in the History of Philosophy**
- **PHIL 76500-76900 Seminars in Logic and the Philosophy of Science**
- **PHIL 77000-77400 Seminars in Metaphysics and Epistemology**
- **PHIL 77500-77900 Seminars in Ethics, Aesthetics, and Related Areas**
- **PHIL 78500-78900 Seminars in Contemporary Philosophical Issues**
- **PHIL 80000-81900 Advanced Seminars**

**Interdisciplinary Seminar**

- **IDS 80100* History and Philosophy of Social Sciences**
  - Offered jointly by the Ph.D. Programs in History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

**Independent Study and Dissertation**

- **PHIL 79000 Readings in Philosophy**
  - Variable credit
- **PHIL 80100 Prospectus and Dissertation Seminar**
  - 0 credits
- **PHIL 88000 Research for the Doctoral Dissertation**
  - Variable credit
- **PHIL 89000 Seminar on Teaching Philosophy**
  - Variable hours, 1–3 credits
- **PHIL 89009 Seminar on Teaching Philosophy**
  - Variable hours, 0 credits
- **PHIL 90000 Dissertation Supervision**
  - 1 credit

*offered infrequently