

University of Kentucky Department of Philosophy Regulations for Graduate Study (“Grad Regs”)

The Department of Philosophy at the University of Kentucky offers programs of study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree. Applicants may, once admitted to the Ph.D. program, apply to leave the program with an M.A. only.

The purpose of the Ph.D. program is to develop the student's ability to complete a Doctoral degree successfully. Doing so will enable the student to do independent research in philosophy, to secure an academic job at the University or College level, or to pursue a career in which rigorous and critical thinking are desired.

The purpose of the M.A. degree is to provide the student with a fundamental understanding of the major historical and contemporary points of view in all of the basic areas of philosophical inquiry and to develop the student's capacity to formulate and analyze philosophical problems. Such a degree is suitable either as preparation for further study in Philosophy or as a complement to advanced training in a variety of other fields.

What follows is a general outline of the requirements and procedures for successful completion of the Ph.D. program, and M.A. degree, in Philosophy. This is not intended as a substitute for the Graduate School Bulletin, which students should consult for a complete statement of Graduate School rules and regulations. Each student is responsible for knowing and meeting all requirements.

Section I. General Procedures

I.A. Admission

I.A.1. *Application Materials:* Admission to the program is based upon a combination of undergraduate and, if appropriate, graduate grade point averages; GRE scores; a writing sample; a written statement of professional goals and objectives; and three letters of evaluation. For application instructions see the department website.

I.A.2. *Admission Requirements:* The minimum requirements for admission to either the Ph.D. or the M.A. program are:

I.A.2.i proof of completion of a B.A., B.S., or M.A.;

I.A.2.ii an overall grade point average of 3.2 or better on a 4.0 scale in undergraduate work and an overall grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in all graduate work.

On approval of the Graduate Faculty, the Director of Graduate Studies may recommend admission of an applicant failing to meet any of these requirements if there is other evidence of the student's capacity for advanced graduate work in philosophy.

Neither an undergraduate major in philosophy nor an M.A. in Philosophy is required for admission to either the Ph.D. or M.A. program, but students lacking

preparation in the history of philosophy or in logic may be required to remedy deficiencies by doing coursework not carrying graduate credit.

- I.A.3. *Provisional Admission:*** The Director of Graduate Studies may recommend provisional admission of an applicant because of deficiencies in the student's previous work. Provisional status is allowed for a maximum of one semester or up to 12 hours, after which the student's work will be reviewed and a determination made by the Graduate Faculty regarding whether the student will be allowed to continue in the program.

I.B. Financial Assistance

Two types of financial assistance are available to graduate students: teaching assistantships and fellowships. Normally, teaching assistantships will be awarded only to students in the Ph.D. program. Contingent on the availability of funds and a student's making satisfactory progress in the program, every effort will be made to ensure that each Ph.D. student is offered aid in the form of a teaching assistantship or fellowship. Information on financial assistance is available from the Director of Graduate Studies. There is no separate application form for financial assistance.

- I.B.1. *Full-Time Status:*** To be eligible for financial support, students must enroll in a minimum of nine graduate credit-hours per semester, with exceptions granted by the Director of Graduate Studies and, in some cases, the Graduate School. These credit-hours should directly contribute to the student's degree, i.e., should not be courses audited or taken for a grade of 'satisfactory' unless such credits are all that remain to complete the student's degree requirements.
- I.B.2. *Teaching Methods Proseminar:*** All students being supported by a Teaching Assistantship must complete with a grade of A or B PHI 740: Practicum on Teaching Methods.

I.C. Satisfactory Progress

- I.C.1.** All students are expected to make satisfactory progress toward the completion of the degree program in which they are enrolled. All students beyond the first year are required to meet with the Director of Graduate Studies to review their checklist in the Fall of each academic year. As required by the Graduate School, the department will provide a written assessment of progress to each student annually, normally around February/March. For all students, satisfactory progress includes observance of the standards of professional behavior ([I.J below](#)) as well as maintenance of a 3.0 or higher grade point average in all course work. Beginning in their third semester, students are also expected to maintain a 3.4 or higher *cumulative* GPA in graduate-level Philosophy courses, i.e., from the start of coursework. In addition:
- I.C.2.** For full-time Ph.D. students entering without an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Kentucky, satisfactory progress is defined as fulfilling the following requirements:
- I.C.2.i** Students are required to take and pass the two first year proseminars (PHI 741 and PHI 742) in their first year in the program; these courses are only open to first year students in the Graduate Program in Philosophy. For the purposes of calculating the number of course work credits in Philosophy

required for successful completion of the program, the two first year proseminars count as one (1) seminar in total.

I.C.2.ii Students are required to take and pass the Qualifying Examination by January of their fourth year in the program.

I.C.3. For Ph.D. students who have completed their course work and passed the Qualifying Examination, the determination of satisfactory progress will be the responsibility of the candidate's Advisory Committee (see [II.B below](#)).

I.C.4. Annual Reviews

I.C.4.i Each January/February and October the Graduate Faculty of the Department will evaluate any graduate students who have been in the program for one or more semesters who are not making satisfactory progress due to grades or Incompletes.

I.C.4.ii In January or February of every year, the Graduate Faculty will meet to review the progress of all graduate students.

I.C.4.ii.a. Student progress is evaluated with reference to the requirements detailed in the Graduate Regulations as well as coursework and teaching. Expectations related to professional development are also discussed.

I.C.4.ii.b. Students whom the Graduate Faculty determines are not making satisfactory progress will be so notified in writing by the Director of Graduate Studies.

I.D. Incompletes ("I" grades)

I.D.1. The Graduate School requires that Incompletes be cleared before a student schedules a Qualifying or Final M.A. or Ph.D. Examination.

I.D.2. Incompletes will not be granted in Independent Studies. Exceptional cases may be appealed to the Graduate Faculty of the department.

I.D.2.i Students who are not Teaching Assistants may register only for a maximum number of credit hours equal to 12 less the number of hours of Incomplete. Students with Incompletes are required to fill out the appropriate form defining terms for the completion of the course.

I.D.3. Per Graduate School regulations, a student who has six or more hours of Incomplete is ineligible for a Teaching Assistantship.

I.E. Warnings and Termination

I.E.1. *Warnings:* The Graduate Faculty, by majority vote, may instruct the Director of Graduate Studies to send a student a warning of unsatisfactory progress if the student is failing to make satisfactory progress, as defined above, or the student has 6 or more hours of Incompletes.

I.E.2. *Termination by the Philosophy Graduate Faculty:* The Graduate Faculty, by majority vote, may terminate a student for failure to maintain satisfactory progress as defined above, or for:

I.E.2.i a grade point average below 3.0 in any two consecutive semesters each; or

I.E.2.ii 6 or more credit hours of Incomplete which are a year or more old; or

I.E.2.iii 9 hours of Incomplete of any duration.

I.E.3. *Notice of Termination by the Graduate Faculty:* A student who is terminated by the

Graduate Faculty will receive from the Director of Graduate Studies a written notice of the decision stating the grounds for the decision. The student will be afforded an opportunity to meet with the Graduate Faculty. After such a meeting with the student, the Graduate Faculty will review the termination. The decision of the Graduate Faculty is final.

I.E.4. Termination by the Graduate School: The Graduate School automatically terminates any student who twice fails either the Final Examination for the M.A., the Qualifying Examination for the Ph.D., or the Final Examination for the Ph.D.

I.F. Course and Seminar Offerings

The department attempts to offer all regular graduate seminars and 500-level courses on a recurring, rotating basis, so as to facilitate students' planning of orderly programs of study. A copy of the course and seminar rotation schedule is available on the department website and from the Director of Graduate Studies.

I.G. Research Qualifications

I.G.1. Each student pursuing a course of study leading to the Ph.D. degree must pass a Qualifying Examination (see [II.C below](#) and [II.H below](#));

I.G.2. a Dissertation Proposal (see [II.I below](#)); and

I.G.3 a Final Oral Examination on the dissertation (see [II.K below](#)).

I.H. The M.A. Degree *en passant*

Students entering the Ph.D. program without an M.A. degree in Philosophy from the University of Kentucky will be eligible to receive an M.A. once they have:

- passed the two first year proseminars;
- completed all other requirements for the M.A. degree in Philosophy (see [Section III below](#)); and
- successfully completed either the Qualifying Examination or alternative capstone experience determined by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Graduate Faculty.

I.I. Academic Leave

I.I.1. In order to go on temporary leave, students must submit a request to the Director of Graduate Studies. The request must specify the number of academic semesters the student wishes to be on leave and the reasons for doing so. Students have the right to appeal decisions of the Director of Graduate Studies on this matter to the Graduate Faculty. Note that the Graduate School allows a maximum of two semesters of consecutive leave and four semesters total

I.I.2. In order to be considered to be making satisfactory progress with respect to the department's policy of attempting, under normal circumstances, to extend financial support to students in good standing (see [I.B above](#)), students on leave must (a) resume their Studies at or before the time agreed to by the Director of Graduate Studies and (b) notify the Director of Graduate Studies of their intent to return by no later than that general review of the Graduate students that occurs in the spring semester (late January or early February) prior to the academic year the student plans to return (whether the student intends to return in the fall or spring semester of that year).

I.I.3. Students who have been granted leave but who either (a) fail to notify the Director of Graduate Studies of their intent to return by the time indicated in [I.I.2 above](#), or (b)

return later than the period originally agreed to by the Director of Graduate Studies, will not be considered to be making satisfactory progress for purposes of awarding financial aid. They will receive support on an ad hoc basis dependent upon the judgment of the Graduate Faculty and the availability of funds.

I.J. Standards of Professional Behavior

All students are bound by, and are responsible for understanding, the [University of Kentucky Governing Regulations](#) and the [University of Kentucky Administrative Regulations](#), including AR 6.1 and 6.2, which govern harassment and professional comportment. Failure to adhere to university policy may result in dismissal from the program.

The department also expects all students to maintain normal professional standards of honesty, decency, and mutual respect. Examples of prohibited behavior include (but are not limited to): cheating; plagiarism; intimidating, threatening, or disruptive behavior; failure to perform assigned teaching duties; and dishonesty in representations made to the department. Reusing papers written for a previous course, without express permission from both professors to whom the work is being submitted, is also prohibited. Failure to observe these standards may result in dismissal from the program.

Section II. Doctor of Philosophy Program Requirements

II.A Course Work Requirements

II.A.1 Completion Requirements by Entering Credential

II.A.1.i. *Students entering without an MA in Philosophy* must complete a minimum of **48 semester credit hours** of Graduate courses, distributed in the following manner:

- 6 credits must be in the two first year proseminars PHI 741: Metaphysics and Epistemology and PHI 742: Value Theory.
- At least 27 credits must be in regular, scheduled graduate courses, i.e., excluding Independent Studies.
- At least 27 credits must be in Department of Philosophy graduate courses, including Independent Studies with Philosophy faculty.
- At least 27 credits must be in regularly scheduled Department of Philosophy graduate seminars at or above the 600 level. PHI 741 and PHI 742 are counted together as 3 seminar credits.

II.A.1.ii. *Students entering with a 1-year MA in Philosophy* must complete a minimum of **39 semester credit hours** of Graduate courses, distributed in the following manner:

- 6 credits must be in the two first year proseminars PHI 741: Metaphysics and Epistemology and PHI 742: Value Theory.
- At least 27 credits must be in regular, scheduled graduate courses, i.e., excluding Independent Studies.
- At least 27 credits must be in Department of Philosophy graduate courses, including Independent Studies with Philosophy faculty.
- At least 21 hours must be in regularly scheduled Department of Philosophy graduate seminars at or above the 600 level. PHI 741 and PHI 742 are counted together as 3 seminar credits.

II.A.1.iii. *Students entering with a 2-year MA in Philosophy* must complete a minimum of **30 semester credit hours** of Graduate courses, distributed in the following manner:

- 6 credits must be in the two first year proseminars PHI 741: Metaphysics and Epistemology and PHI 742: Value Theory.
- At least 21 credits must be in regular, scheduled graduate courses, i.e., excluding Independent Studies.
- At least 21 credits must be in Department of Philosophy graduate courses, including Independent Studies with Philosophy faculty.
- At least 18 hours must be in regularly scheduled Department of Philosophy graduate seminars at or above the 600 level. PHI 741 and PHI 742 are counted together as 3 seminar credits.

II.A.2 Logic Requirement

Prior to undertaking the Qualifying Examination, all graduate students must demonstrate their competence in logic in one of three ways:

- completion of PHI 520 with a grade of "C" or better; or
- passing, with a grade of "C" or better, the departmental examination in logic, which, if requested of the Director of Graduate Studies at least seven days in advance, will be offered the first full week of the Fall and Spring terms; or
- providing evidence of completion of a course in logic comparable to PHI 520 at another institution, with a grade of "C" or better. Determination of the satisfaction of

the logic requirement in this way is to be made by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Department's logic Faculty.

II.A.3 Language Requirement

Prior to undertaking the Qualifying Examination, Students must demonstrate reading competence in one foreign language. Normally, French, German, classical Greek, or Latin is required, but the Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Graduate Faculty, may approve another language if warranted by a student's program of study. The language requirement may be satisfied in any of five ways:

- completing one of the accelerated graduate level language courses (XXX 011) with a grade of "B" or better;
- transferring a language taken to satisfy the requirements for a Master's degree at another university.
- with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, students who are non-native speakers of English may satisfy the foreign language requirement by presenting a TOEFL score of 79 on the internet-based test or an IELTS score of 6.5 or above;
- completing four semesters (or equivalent) of the language with a grade point average of 3.0 or better at the University of Kentucky or some comparable institution;
- completing, with a grade of "B" or better, Special Examinations given for the Graduate reading courses (forms may be obtained from the Registrar's Office; other types of special examinations are scheduled in the Graduate School Records Office);

II.A.4. Contemporary Course Distribution Requirement

To ensure competence in contemporary developments in philosophy, all Ph.D. students are required, prior to undertaking the Qualifying Examination, to complete 9 credit hours in contemporary philosophy, of which at least 3 are in value theory (VT) and at least 3 in metaphysics and epistemology (M&E). Courses that count toward this requirement are so marked in the course description each semester. Normally, in order to qualify at least half or more of the course readings will be drawn from works written circa 1975 to the present. Determination that a course qualifies is made by the faculty member teaching the course in consultation with the department chair. PHI 520 does not count towards fulfilling this requirement.

At the prerogative of the Director of Graduate Studies, and after consultation with the instructor of the relevant UK course, one course (or up to two courses for students who enter with an M.A. in Philosophy) of approximately the same length and content taken elsewhere for graduate credit can be substituted for a corresponding contemporary Philosophy course.

II.A.5. Grade Point Average

Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale for all graduate coursework and a 3.4 or higher in all graduate-level Philosophy courses.

II.A.6. Transfer of Credit

For the purposes of earning a philosophy M.A. or PhD from the University of Kentucky, a student in either the M.A. or Ph.D. program may transfer up to 9 semester credit hours from another graduate program at this or another university. Such credits must not have been used for a degree received. Such transfer requires the approval of the Director of

Graduate Studies and the Dean of the Graduate School.

II.B. Advisory Committee

- II.B.1. *Time of Constitution:*** During the last semester of coursework, each student should concentrate on composing an Advisory Committee.
- II.B.2. Membership of the Committee:** The Advisory Committee will have a core of four members, consisting of the Major Professor as Chair, two other members from the student's major area—Philosophy—and at least one representative from outside of the Department. All members of the core must be members of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Kentucky, and three (including the Major Professor) must possess full Graduate Faculty status. The core of the Advisory Committee must be kept at its full complement throughout the student's graduate career; thus, vacancies must be filled before any vote can be taken. Changes in the composition of the Committee must be approved by the Graduate School on the basis of the reason(s) explained in a written petition from the student.
- II.B.3. *Procedures & Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee:*** All decisions of the Advisory Committee are by majority vote and must be reported promptly to the Director of Graduate Studies, who is responsible for transmitting these decisions to the Dean of the Graduate School.
- II.B.3.i** The responsibilities of the Advisory Committee include the planning of the student's program of study, the administration of the Qualifying Examination, the approval of the student's dissertation proposal, supervision of the preparation of the dissertation, and the administration of the final oral examination on the dissertation.
- II.B.3.ii** In planning a student's program of study, the Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, will have the authority to set special requirements for the student as regards courses to be taken and the number of hours above the minimum to be completed.

II.C. Qualifying Examination

- II.C.1.** The Qualifying Examination will be prepared, administered, and its results evaluated by the student's Advisory Committee, a majority vote of the committee being required for successful completion. Alternatively, with the consent of the Advisory Committee, a student may submit a Qualifying Essay in lieu of the written exam.
- II.C.2.** The examination will consist of both a written and an oral component, and will cover the student's declared area of specialization. If the student opts to write a Qualifying Essay, he or she will also sit for an oral examination on the content of the essay.
- II.C.3.** The Qualifying Examination or Essay must be scheduled through the Director of Graduate Studies and its administration approved by the Graduate School at least two weeks in advance of the proposed administration. The results of the examination must be reported to the Director of Graduate Studies, who in turn must report them to the Graduate School within 10 days of the conclusion of the examination.
- II.C.4.** If the result of the examination is "fail," the Advisory Committee determines the conditions to be met before another examination may be given. The minimum time between examinations is four months. If a second examination is given, it must be taken within one year after taking the first examination. A third examination is not permitted.

II.D. Advancement to Candidacy and Post-Qualifying Residency Requirement

Students will be admitted to candidacy only upon completion of the Qualifying Examination and dissertation proposal. The Graduate School requires that students complete the two-credit dissertation residency course, PHI 767, in at least two semesters (including at least once in the Fall or Spring) prior to graduating with the Ph.D. Note that a student need not be physically present on campus while enrolled in this course.

II.E. Dissertation Proposal

Each candidate must present a dissertation which is the result of original research. Before the candidate may begin writing the dissertation, a dissertation proposal must be approved by the student's Advisory Committee.

- II.E.1.** After a dissertation topic has been chosen by the candidate in consultation with her or his Dissertation Director and the other members of the Advisory Committee, the candidate will prepare a proposal outlining the general nature of the dissertation topic, including the choice of dissertation track ([II.I.2 below](#)). It should be detailed enough so as to leave no doubt about the candidate's basic understanding of the nature and dimensions of the topic. It should include a statement of the overall aim of the project, a defense of the topic's importance, and an account of the methods of investigation to be pursued. The proposal should also include a tentative bibliography sufficient to demonstrate the candidate's familiarity with the relevant sources. The proposal must be approved by the Advisory Committee before the student can advance to candidacy.
- II.E.2.** The Dissertation may consist either of one monograph on a single topic and method or three article-length works suited for publication. In either case, a qualifying exam and dissertation proposal, as per standard, are required.
- II.E.3.** All decisions of the Advisory Committee must be by majority vote. The Committee has three options: approval; approval, conditional on minor changes; or rejection.
- II.E.4.** The Advisory Committee's decision will be reported to the Director of Graduate Studies.
- II.E.5.** If the proposal is rejected, the candidate may submit a second proposal after an interval of at least two months. A third attempt is not permitted.

II.F. Dissertation Writing

It will be the responsibility of the Advisory Committee to supervise the writing of the dissertation. Day to day responsibility will be in the hands of the Dissertation Director, but all members of the Committee will be available at all times for consultation with the candidate. The Director of Graduate Studies should also be kept informed regularly of the candidate's progress.

II.G. Final Oral Defense and Approval of the Dissertation

- II.G.1.** Prior to scheduling the dissertation defense, the candidate should circulate a copy of the dissertation to all members of the Advisory Committee and obtain the agreement of the majority that the dissertation is ready to be defended. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the Dissertation Director when this consent has been obtained.
- II.G.2.** The style and form of the dissertation must be in conformity with the instructions prepared by the Graduate School and any additional requirements set by the Advisory Committee. For specific instructions, the candidate should consult [Theses & Dissertation Preparation](#) on the Graduate School website.

II.G.3. The Final Examination

- II.G.3.i** The Final Examination is a defense of the dissertation; it is not a Comprehensive Examination. The Graduate Dean and President of the University are ex officio members of all final examination committees.
- II.G.3.ii** The Final Examination is a public event and its scheduling is published and announced beforehand. Any member of the University community may attend.
- II.G.3.iii** At least eight weeks prior to the Final Examination, following notification by the Dissertation Director that the dissertation has been approved for defense by a majority of the Advisory Committee, the Director of Graduate Studies will advise the Graduate School of the intent to examine. At this time, the Graduate Dean appoints an Outside Examiner as a core member of the Advisory Committee.
- II.G.3.iv** The Final Examination must take place no later than eight days prior to the last day of classes of the semester in which the student expects to graduate.
- II.G.3.v** In all decisions, the majority opinion of the Graduate Faculty members on the Advisory Committee prevails. If the Advisory Committee is evenly divided, the examination receives a "fail."
- II.G.3.vi** In the event of failure, the Advisory Committee recommends to the Dean of the Graduate School the conditions under which the candidate may be reexamined, if re-examination is deemed appropriate. When the conditions set by the Dean of the Graduate School have been met, the candidate may be re-examined. A third examination is not permitted.
- II.G.3.vii** After the Final Examination is passed, the final copy of the dissertation is prepared. Final copies are then submitted to the Graduate School along with the signatures of the Dissertation Director and the Director of Graduate Studies. The dissertation in its final form must be received in the Graduate School office within 60 days of the Final Examination. If this dead line is not met, the candidate must undergo a second examination.

II.L. Time Limits

All degree requirements for the doctorate must be completed within five years following the semester or summer session in which the candidate successfully completes the Qualifying Examination, but extensions up to an additional 5 years may be requested for a total of 10 years. All requests should be initiated by the Director of Graduate Studies and accompanied by a letter of support from the student's advisor. Extensions up to one year may be approved by the Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Requests for extensions longer than one year must be considered by Graduate Council. All requests should be initiated by the Director of Graduate Studies and must include a recommendation on whether or not a retake of the qualifying examination should be a requirement of the extension. If requested, failure to pass the reexamination will result in the termination of degree candidacy; a second re-examination is not permitted. Failure to complete all degree requirements within 10 years of initially taking the qualifying examination will also result in the termination of degree candidacy. All pre- and postqualifying residency requirements must again be met if the student subsequently seeks readmission to the doctoral program.

Section III. Master of Arts Program Requirements

This section describes the requirements for an M.A. in Philosophy taken *en passant* (see [I.H above](#)).

III.A. Advising

The Director of Graduate Studies serves as advisor to all students prior to formation of their Advisory Committee. While the Director of Graduate Studies assists students in developing a course of study and ensuring that all requirements for the Master's degree are fulfilled, the student is responsible for knowing and meeting all requirements.

III.B. Course Work Requirements; Grade Point Average; Transfer of Credit

Students must complete a minimum of 36 semester credit hours of Graduate courses, distributed in the following manner:

- 6 credits must be in the two first year proseminars PHI 741: Metaphysics and Epistemology and PHI 742: Value Theory.
- At least 24 must be in regular, scheduled graduate courses, excluding Independent Studies.
- At least 24 must be in Department of Philosophy graduate courses.
- At least 18 hours must be in regularly scheduled Department of Philosophy graduate seminars at or above the 600 level and, as in **Error! Reference source not found.** **Error! Reference source not found.**, PHI 741 and PHI 742 may count as one seminar.

A student must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale for all graduate coursework and a 3.4 or higher in all graduate-level Philosophy courses.

Transfer of Credit. For the purposes of earning a philosophy M.A. from the University of Kentucky, a student—in either the M.A. or Ph.D. program—may transfer up to 9 semester credit hours from another graduate program at this or another university. Such credits must not have been used for a degree received. Such transfer requires the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Dean of the Graduate School.

III.C. Language Requirement

The student must complete the Language Requirement as specified in [II.D above](#).

III.D. Logic Requirement

The student must complete the Logic Requirement as specified in [II.E above](#).

III.E. Contemporary Course Distribution Requirement

The student must complete the Contemporary Course Distribution Requirement as specified in [II.F above](#).