**PHILOSOPHY, M.A.**

The Department of Philosophy offers work leading to the doctor of philosophy with a major in philosophy.

The M.A. is granted to Ph.D. program students when they pass their preliminary examinations and become a dissertator. When a student must leave the program early and is unable to complete a Ph.D., a terminal M.A. is granted upon satisfying the department’s criteria for a master’s degree.

The Ph.D. degree is awarded in recognition of a successfully completed program of advanced studies in philosophy, culminating in a dissertation which represents a contribution to philosophy or to philosophical scholarship.

The Ph.D. program falls into two major stages. The first consists of work that prepares the student for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Studies during the first stage of the program are devoted to acquiring the philosophical skills and learning needed to do philosophy in the second stage when writing a successful dissertation.

The department offers five years of support to all incoming graduate students. Support begins with the first fall semester and continues for at least nine additional semesters, provided the student makes satisfactory academic progress and carries out duties acceptably as a graduate assistant.

The department assigns a faculty member as placement officer and devotes a significant portion of staff resources to help graduates find employment.

**ADMISSIONS**

This master’s program is offered for work leading to the Ph.D. Students may not apply directly for the master’s, and should instead see the admissions information for the Ph.D (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/philosophy/philosophy-phd/).

**FUNDING**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

**PROGRAM RESOURCES**

We offer five years of support to all incoming graduate students, beginning their first fall semester, and continuing for at least nine additional semesters, provided the student makes satisfactory academic progress and carries out duties acceptably as graduate assistants. The support may vary from year to year between assistantships and lectureships.

**NOTE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Please be advised that all students who are not US citizens must prove that they have the financial means to live and study in the United States, before they are granted a visa. For an explanation of this policy, see International Applicant Financial Information (https://grad.wisc.edu/international-students/#financialinformation).

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID**

Citizens of the United States and permanent residents should contact Student Financial Services (https://financialaid.wisc.edu/) (phone: 608-262-3060) for more information on eligibility, how and when to apply, and types of aid.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Instruction</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

- **Accelerated**: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.
- **Evening/Weekend**: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.
- **Face-to-Face**: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.
- **Hybrid**: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.
- **Online**: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

**CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>33 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>21 credits taken in PHILOS coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>30 credits must be in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (<a href="https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/">https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/</a>).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement

3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements

The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

Assessments and Examinations

None for the master's degree.

Language Requirements

No language requirements. Students in the History of Philosophy area may find it important to take additional language courses in consultation with their advisor.

REQUIRED COURSES

At least 21 credits must be earned in philosophy courses numbered between 800 and 989. The remaining credits may be earned either by transferring credits from graduate-level work (with a maximum of 9 credits) or by taking courses at the 400–900 level.

No more than one course at the 400–600 level nor more than one course at the 700 level can count toward the credit-hour requirements for the M.A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 902</td>
<td>Proseminar in Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 904</td>
<td>Teaching Philosophy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS/CLASSICS 830</td>
<td>Advanced History of Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 835</td>
<td>Advanced History of Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

900-level Seminars

The number of courses a student takes on this list depends on how many credits are taken in history seminars, transferred credits, etc. Typically students take between seven and nine seminars at the 900 level, each at 3 credits. Three seminars must be in the major area; three seminars should be in other areas of philosophy.

PHILOS 903 Seminar: Epistemology 3
PHILOS 911 Seminar-Logic 3
PHILOS 916 Seminar-Philosophy of Language 3
PHILOS 920 Seminar-Philosophy of Science: Causation, Explanation & Probability 3
PHILOS 941 Seminar-Ethics 3
PHILOS 951 Seminar-Philosophy of Mind 3
PHILOS 955 Seminar Social and Political Philosophy 3
PHILOS 960 Metaphysics Seminar 3

1 No more than one 701 course can count toward the 33-credit-hour requirement for the M.A. Students typically take one PHILOS 701

2 Reading Seminar course before advancing to candidacy/earning the M.A. degree.

3 Required of all first-year graduate students.

3 Required of all graduate students in their first year of teaching.

Contact the program for information on any additional required courses.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 6 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

UW–Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 500 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects students to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

The assistant to the chair serves as the advisor for the first year or so. Students then select an advisor and, as coursework and other requirements are completed, a committee of faculty is selected by the student to serve as advisors.
CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
12 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS
Master's degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS
These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

• Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
• Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
• Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  • Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
• Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
• Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
• Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
• Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
• Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
• Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
• Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
• Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances. They may also contact the L&S Academic Divisional Associate Deans, the L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Administration, or the L&S Director of Human Resources.

OTHER
n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Expert ability to think critically about arguments.
2. Expert ability to interpret complex texts accurately and analyze them logically.
3. Ability to communicate very precisely and concisely in both writing and in speech.
4. In-depth familiarity with the history of Western philosophy and the major debates within that tradition.
5. Interpretative charity, and intellectual honesty, which includes appropriate attribution to others of their ideas, and recognition and frankness about the limitations of one’s own ideas.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Bengson, Brighouse, Clatterbuck, Fletcher, Gibson, Gottlieb, Kelleher, Mackay, Masrour, Messina, Nadler, Paul, Schechtman, Shafer-Landau, Shapiro, Sidelle, Sober, Southgate, Steinberg, Streiffer, Titelbaum, Vranas, Whittle.

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.