

PHILOSOPHY M.A. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

EFFECTIVE FALL 2026

PLAN A: THESIS

Any courses required to address deficiencies must be completed before graduation. Credits earned through completion of such courses do not count toward the M.A. degree. Deficiencies are assessed in five areas at the time of admission into the program: ancient Greek philosophy, 17th and 18th-century philosophy, introductory formal logic, upper-level epistemology/metaphysics/philosophy of mind, and upper-level ethical theory.

Group 1: Select 2 Courses	6 credits
PHIL 525	Seminar in Epistemology
PHIL 527	Seminar in Philosophy of Science
PHIL 535	Seminar in Metaphysics
PHIL 538	Seminar in Philosophy of Mind
Group 2: Select 1 Course	3 credits
PHIL 547	Seminar in Meta-Ethics
PHIL 548	Seminar in Normative Ethical Theory
Group 3: Select 1 Course	3 credits
PHIL 564	Seminar in Animal Rights
PHIL 565	Seminar in Environmental Philosophy
PHIL 566	Seminar in Applied Philosophy
PHIL 567	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy
Group 4: Select 1 Course	3 credits
PHIL 500	Seminar in Major Philosophical Texts
PHIL 501	Seminar: Topics in History of Philosophy

Philosophy Electives^{1,2}	6-9 credits
Out-of-Department Courses²	0-3 credits
Thesis	6 credits
PHIL 699	Thesis
Program Total Credits:	30 credits

A minimum of 30 credits are required to complete this program. In addition to completing program credits and courses required to address deficiencies, students must pass an oral defense of their thesis.

¹ Select courses with PHIL subject code. A minimum of 6 credits must be taken as regular courses (courses ending in -00 through -79) at the 500- to 600-level. A maximum of 6 credits may be taken as [PHIL 695](#) and/or [PHIL 697](#). A maximum of 2 credits may be taken as [PHIL 684](#).

² Students may select a maximum of 6 credits total within the program at the 400-level with approval of advisor and graduate committee.

Students must complete the minimum number of credits specified in the official program of study as approved by the University Curriculum Committee, and all credit requirements specified in the [Graduate and Professional Bulletin](#) for their degree.

For more details on the Philosophy MA program, please review the Department of Philosophy Graduate Studies Handbook.

PLAN B: 2-PAPER + EXAM

Any courses required to address deficiencies must be completed before graduation. Credits earned through completion of such courses do not count toward the M.A. degree. Deficiencies are assessed in five areas at the time of admission into the program: ancient Greek philosophy, 17th and 18th-century philosophy, introductory formal logic, upper-level epistemology or metaphysics, and upper-level ethical theory.

Group 1: Select 2 Courses	6 credits
PHIL 525	Seminar in Epistemology
PHIL 527	Seminar in Philosophy of Science
PHIL 535	Seminar in Metaphysics
PHIL 538	Seminar in Philosophy of Mind
Group 2: Select 1 Course	3 credits
PHIL 547	Seminar in Meta-Ethics
PHIL 548	Seminar in Normative Ethical Theory
Group 3: Select 1 Course	3 credits
PHIL 564	Seminar in Animal Rights
PHIL 565	Seminar in Environmental Philosophy
PHIL 566	Seminar in Applied Philosophy
PHIL 567	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy
Group 4: Select 1 Course	3 credits
PHIL 500	Seminar in Major Philosophical Texts
PHIL 501	Seminar: Topics in History of Philosophy

Philosophy Electives^{1,2}	6-9 credits
Out-of-Department Courses²	0-3 credits
Thesis	6 credits
PHIL 698 Thesis	
Program Total Credits:	30 credits

A minimum of 30 credits are required to complete this program. In addition to completing program credits and courses required to address deficiencies, students must pass an oral defense of their two submitted papers.

¹ Select courses with PHIL subject code. A minimum of 6 credits must be taken as regular courses (courses ending in -00 through -79) at the 500- to 600-level. A maximum of 6 credits may be taken as [PHIL 695](#) and/or [PHIL 697](#). A maximum of 2 credits may be taken as [PHIL 684](#).

² Students may select a maximum of 6 credits total within the program at the 400-level with approval of advisor and graduate committee.

Students must complete the minimum number of credits specified in the official program of study as approved by the University Curriculum Committee, and all credit requirements specified in the [Graduate and Professional Bulletin](#) for their degree.

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