

PHILOSOPHY (MA/PHD)

The graduate program in Philosophy offers students the opportunity to study the history of philosophy and contemporary philosophy and to work with some of the leading scholars in:

- Contemporary Continental Thought
- German Idealism
- Social and Political Theory
- History of Philosophy and Ethics
- Feminist Philosophy
- Psychoanalytic Thought
- Latin American Philosophy

The program provides students with a rigorous course of graduate seminars in these and other areas of philosophy, as well as regular faculty consultation and guidance at every stage of the program.

The department offers the PhD in philosophy. Though students may enter the program with a BA or an MA, they all follow the same MA/PhD path.

Program Structure

Most graduate courses are taught in a series of streams organized each year under unifying titles, such as German Idealism, Ethics, Society and Politics, or Contemporary French Philosophy. These are all research courses, with no distinction being made between MA and PhD course levels, and a student does not technically have to follow the stream from beginning to end.

In their first two years in the program, students serve as Teaching Assistants. In their third through sixth year in the program, students serve as Teaching Fellows. In this role, students are expected to teach up to a maximum of three courses per academic year.

After the first year of course work is complete, students are allowed to enroll for up to three independent studies of any kind toward their degree. These courses can be any combination of language courses, independent studies in the department or in other departments at DePaul, or courses in other doctoral programs at other local universities.

Program Length

Students take a total of 28 courses (or 112 credit hours), usually over the course of four years, whether they are entering with a BA or an MA. They then complete the degree by writing and defending a dissertation, normally in their fourth through sixth years in the program.

Program Highlights

The department offers courses, seminars, mini-courses, directed research, and colloquia to stimulate students' investigation of various philosophies and philosophical problems.

Each student is required to pass two competency exams in languages pertinent to their research. In support of this requirement, the department holds informal reading groups (in French, German, Greek, and Latin) that meet regularly and emphasize reading philosophical texts in their original languages. In addition, in the spring of the second year, every student is permitted to travel abroad in order to engage in serious and immersed language study in another country and develop academic connections and, oftentimes, contact a faculty host for an eventual dissertation research and writing fellowship, such as the Chateaubriand, DAAD,

or Fulbright. Finally, we also sponsor an exclusive exchange program with the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris every year, where we send a second-year student from our program to study there, while we host an ENS student here in Chicago.

Because the majority of our graduates will go on to jobs in academia, we offer a carefully designed teaching practicum to support our students as they transition from serving as a Teaching Assistant, in their first two years in the program, to being a Teaching Fellow, who designs and offers their own undergraduate classes, in their third through sixth years.

Finally, there is a student-organized forum, the Frings Lecture Series, in which students present papers and discuss their work with their fellow graduate students and the graduate students also organize and host an annual national conference for graduate students each year.

Program Participants

The program is designed primarily for:

- Students on their way to careers in academia

Certificate Options

The Philosophy PhD may also be supplemented with a number of graduate certificates:

- Bioethics
- Business Ethics
- Teaching and Learning Certificate

Program Requirements	Quarter Hours
Core Requirements	112
Total hours required	112

Learning Outcomes

MA Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Critically discuss philosophical issues (via well-grounded arguments) and questions from the perspectives of multiple methods, traditions, and historical contexts.
- Evaluate philosophical issues, questions, and problems critically and analytically.
- Write an articulate and well-ordered essay presenting philosophical positions in a way that addresses philosophical issues and questions.
- Formulate and evaluate their own understanding of a diverse range of philosophical problems, in both writing and discussion.
- Integrate a critical understanding of central philosophical ideas from the history of philosophy, broadly construed to include more than the Western tradition.
- Read and integrate into their research relevant primary and secondary texts from the history of philosophy in their original language.

PhD Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Critically discuss philosophical issues (via well-grounded arguments) and questions from the perspectives of multiple methods, traditions, and historical contexts.

- Evaluate philosophical issues, questions, and problems critically and analytically.
- Write an articulate and well-ordered essay presenting philosophical positions in a way that addresses philosophical issues and questions.
- Formulate and evaluate their own understanding of a diverse range of philosophical problems, in both writing and discussion.
- Integrate a critical understanding of central philosophical ideas from the history of philosophy, broadly construed to include more than the Western tradition.
- Read and integrate into their research relevant primary and secondary texts from the history of philosophy in their original language.
- Produce a substantial piece of research (thesis or dissertation) that makes an original contribution to the field of philosophy and/or exhibits a comprehensive grasp of the relevant scholarship on a given question, text, or figure.

Degree Requirements

The Philosophy MA/PhD is a combined degree. The MA is non-terminal and, therefore, only students intending to earn the PhD are admitted.

The MA degree requires a minimum of 48 quarter hours of graduate PHL courses.

A minimum of 112 quarter hours of graduate level course work (28 courses) is required for the PhD. This includes 104 quarter hours of course work (26 courses), 4 quarter hours of PHL 697 (Graduate Teaching Practicum), and 4 quarter hours of PHL 699 (Dissertation Research).

Of the 112 quarter hours (28 courses) required for the PhD, 32 quarter hours (8 courses) must be taken in accordance with the following distribution requirements:

- Four History of Western Philosophy Courses
 - Two in Ancient or Medieval: 8 quarter hours
 - Two in Modern or Nineteenth Century: 8 quarter hours
- Two Contemporary European Philosophy Courses: 8 quarter hours
- Two Normative Philosophy Courses: 8 quarter hours

Course Distribution List

History of Western Philosophy - Ancient or Medieval

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PHL 400	SPECIAL TOPICS IN TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHERS	
PHL 410	PLATO I	
PHL 411	PLATO II	
PHL 415	ARISTOTLE I	
PHL 416	ARISTOTLE II	
PHL 420	AUGUSTINE	
PHL 425	AQUINAS	
PHL 500	SPECIAL TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY	

History of Western Philosophy - Modern or Nineteenth Century

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PHL 400	SPECIAL TOPICS IN TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHERS	

PHL 434	HOBBS	
PHL 435	DESCARTES	
PHL 437	LOCKE	
PHL 438	LEIBNIZ	
PHL 440	SPINOZA	
PHL 441	ROUSSEAU	
PHL 445	HUME	
PHL 500	SPECIAL TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY	
PHL 510	KANT I	
PHL 511	KANT II	
PHL 512	KANT III	
PHL 515	HEGEL I	
PHL 516	HEGEL II	
PHL 517	HOLDERLIN	
PHL 518	SCHELLING	
PHL 520	MARX I	
PHL 521	MARX II	
PHL 525	NIETZSCHE	

Contemporary European Philosophy

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PHL 470	PHILOSOPHY OF WITTGENSTEIN	
PHL 535	HUSSERL I	
PHL 536	HUSSERL II	
PHL 550	HEIDEGGER I	
PHL 551	HEIDEGGER II	
PHL 552	HEIDEGGER III	
PHL 557	TOPICS IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY	
PHL 559	FOUCAULT	
PHL 560	THE PHILOSOPHY OF GABRIEL MARCEL	
PHL 561	LYOTARD	
PHL 565	MERLEAU-PONTY I	
PHL 566	MERLEAU-PONTY II	
PHL 570	SARTRE I	
PHL 571	SARTRE II	
PHL 577	DERRIDA I	
PHL 578	DERRIDA II	
PHL 585	RICOEUR	
PHL 586	METAPHOR AND POETIC LANGUAGE	
PHL 587	READING LEVINAS I	
PHL 588	READING LEVINAS II	
PHL 589	PHILOSOPHY, LITERATURE, COMMUNITY	
PHL 590	TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY FRENCH PHILOSOPHY	

Normative Philosophy

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PHL 443	MEDICAL LEGAL ETHICS	
PHL 522	SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY	
PHL 527	PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS, AND ECONOMICS	
PHL 591	CRITICAL RACE THEORY	

PHL 601	SEMINAR ON AESTHETICS
PHL 629	SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS
PHL 640	PROBLEMS IN ETHICS
PHL 641	SEMINAR ON THE CONTINENTAL TRADITION IN ETHICS
PHL 651	TOPICS IN BUSINESS ETHICS
PHL 656	SEMINAR ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT
PHL 657	TOPICS IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT
PHL 660	SEMINAR IN FEMINIST ETHICS
PHL 661	TOPICS IN FEMINIST THEORY

Additional Requirements

Annual Reviews

The Graduate Affairs Committee conducts annual formal reviews of each student's progress toward the doctoral degree. The purpose of the review session is to discuss the student's experience in the program thus far, address any questions or concerns that they might have, and assess how well they are meeting the expectations relevant to their year in the program.

As part of the review process, students are required to submit a self-evaluation of their progress in the program, teaching evaluations (when serving as a Teaching Fellow) and, until all their course work is completed (typically, through their fourth year in the program), students are also required to submit two file papers for review. These papers are read by a second member of the faculty who assesses whether the papers meet relevant standards of graduate level work and thus indicate appropriate progress in the program for each student.

Students deemed not to be making satisfactory progress may be placed on probation or, where the circumstances in the judgment of the Graduate Affairs Committee warrant, the student may be required to leave the doctoral program.

Foreign Languages Requirement

The Philosophy Department places a very high priority on working with texts in original languages, rather than translations. For doctoral students, competence in *two* languages of research is thus required. Typically, these are Greek, Latin, French, or German. Competence in other languages may be used to fulfill the language requirements if it is deemed appropriate to the research undertaken by the student. In the latter case, prior to beginning preparation to pass a language requirement (by either of the two paths outlined below), the student must submit a short paragraph to the Director of Graduate Studies, to be reviewed by the Graduate Affairs Committee, outlining why the language in question will be important to the student's future research.

Each student must complete the requirement for one language before scheduling a Dissertation Proposal Defense, and they must complete the requirement for a second language before scheduling a Dissertation Defense.

There are two ways in which students can complete the Foreign Languages requirement:

1. Student may pass a departmentally administered Language Competency Exam, which are offered just before the start of every

quarter. This usually involves asking the student to translate a selection from a philosophical text in the original language.

2. Students may, alternatively, complete a certain number of classes in the Modern Languages Department, maintaining a B+ average each quarter. For ancient languages, students must take through the first year. For modern languages, students must take through year two.

Dissertation

Students must form a dissertation committee and submit and defend a dissertation proposal before that committee. Each student must then submit a dissertation and successfully defend it before their dissertation committee.

The dissertation is a thesis, approximately 200-275 pages (60,000-85,500 words) in length, including scholarly apparatus. The precise topic, structure, and length of the dissertation is to be determined in consultation with the dissertation Director and the other members of the dissertation committee.

Student Handbook

Probation, Dismissal, and Readmission

The Graduate Affairs Committee conducts annual formal reviews of each student's progress toward the doctoral degree. Students deemed not to be making satisfactory progress may be placed on probation or, where the circumstances in the judgment of the Graduate Affairs Committee warrant, the student may be required to leave the doctoral program. In these cases, students may petition the Graduate Affairs Committee for readmission to the program.

Residency Requirement

Three consecutive quarters of full-time residence, i.e., registration for eight credit hours each quarter.

Time Limitations

Students are expected to defend their dissertation proposals and become ABD by the end of their fourth year, but by no later than the end of their sixth year. Students are expected to submit and successfully defend their dissertations by the end of their sixth year, but by no later than the end of their tenth year after entering the program.

- Graduate Certificate in Bioethics (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/programs/philosophy-phd/certificate-bioethics/>)
- Graduate Certificate in Business Ethics (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/programs/philosophy-phd/certificate-business-ethics/>)