

University of South Carolina
Department of Philosophy

Graduate Handbook
2023–2024



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

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DEPARTMENT OF PHIL  SOPHY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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About the Philosophy Department

The faculty and staff are dedicated to providing a high quality graduate education in philosophy to talented students who wish to pursue advanced study, possibly towards a career in academia or related fields. The program emphasizes historical awareness of the perennial problems in philosophy, as well as an opportunity to pursue focused interests in several specialized areas.

The department is structured as follows:

- Core Faculty (Assistant, Associate, and Full Professors as well as Instructors and Senior Instructors)
 - ❖ Department Chair
 - ❖ Director of Graduate Studies
 - ❖ Director of Undergraduate Studies
 - ❖ Placement Director

- Adjunct Faculty

- Emeritus Faculty

- Graduate Students

- Staff
 - ❖ Program Coordinator and Student Services
 - ❖ Office Manager
 - ❖ Work Study Students

Location: Close-Hipp Building
 1705 College Street
 Suite 503
 Columbia, SC 29208

For information about current Faculty and Staff, check the Department webpage:
<http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/phil/front-page>

Ph.D. in Philosophy

I. Overview of Requirements

Ph.D. students must satisfy the requirements of the Department of Philosophy and the requirements of the Graduate School. Note that many of the requirements of the Graduate School both recapitulate and elaborate on the requirements of the Department of Philosophy.

I.a. Overview of Departmental Requirements

Doctoral students who enter the Ph.D. program without a master's degree in philosophy must pass 16 graduate courses. At least 8 of these courses must be 700-level and be taken in traditional face-to-face format.

Doctoral students who enter the Ph.D. program with a master's degree in philosophy must pass 8 or more courses. At least 6 of these courses are must be 700-level and be taken in traditional face-to-face format.

All students must satisfy the following Course Requirements:

1. Logic Requirement
Successful completion of PHIL 511 (Symbolic Logic). This should be completed in the first two years of the program.
2. Core Requirements
Successful completion of PHIL 763 (Epistemology), PHIL 764 (Metaphysics), and one of either PHIL 514 (Ethical Theory) or PHIL 527 (Virtues, Acts, and Consequences). These should be completed within the first two years in the program. The requirement of PHIL 514 and PHIL 527 may be replaced by PHIL 711.
3. Philosophy of Science Requirement
Successful completion of at least one course in Philosophy of Science.
4. History of Philosophy Requirement
Successful completion of at least one course in each of three historical periods (Ancient to Renaissance, Early Modern, and Late Modern).
5. PHIL 899 (Dissertation Preparation)
All students must have at least 12 credits of dissertation preparation.

Students must satisfy the Language Requirement (a reading knowledge of one foreign language).

Students must maintain no less than a “B” average. Students risk expulsion from the program if grades of less than a “B” for more than 2 courses are earned. A grade of “D” is considered failing and cannot count toward degree completion.

Note that the philosophy department does not offer graduate courses during the summer terms; however, a PHIL 797 (Independent Study) course may be approved and arranged with a faculty member during the summer terms.

I.b. Overview of Graduate School Requirements (as recorded in the Graduate Bulletin 2022-2023)

Summary of Policies and Regulations

All graduate students are subject to the academic policies, regulations, and academic standards of both The Graduate School and the department, school and/or college in which enrolled. Graduate programs may have more stringent standards and additional regulations and requirements than that of The Graduate School. Program academic policies, regulations, and standards are available from the graduate director of the program. Contact information for academic programs is available on the website of The Graduate School.

It is the responsibility of all students to be aware of USC academic standards and their own academic record. At the very least, students should check their Record of Academic Work in Self Service Carolina at the conclusion of each semester. The academic record will list any academic or registration issues or probationary status that requires attention by the student.

Graduate students are bound by the academic policies, regulations, standards, and degree requirements found in the Graduate Studies Bulletin in effect at the term of enrollment. With approval of the academic program in which enrolled and the dean of The Graduate School, a student may elect during the course of a program of study to change to standards, regulations, and requirements found in a subsequent Graduate Studies Bulletin. However, the student may not pick and choose from different Bulletins, but must select one Graduate Studies Bulletin during the period of the student’s graduate enrollment and conform to all policies, regulations, and degree requirements of the selected Bulletin.

Graduate students in Master’s, specialist, and certificate programs have a period of six years, inclusive and continuous, in which to claim the rights of a specific Graduate Studies Bulletin. Doctoral students have a period of 10 years. Any student whose admission lapses for three years loses the right to claim a previous Bulletin and becomes bound to the Bulletin in force when readmitted.

Students are advised that there are no guarantees that a particular course or program of study can be delivered by the University at a time convenient for every student. Unforeseen circumstances may interfere with the scheduling of any given course or degree offering. Students must be prepared for such occurrences even if students experience delays in fulfilling

academic goals or require modification of those goals. Academic units and The Graduate School will work closely with students to resolve academic issues.

Note: For detailed information on Degree Requirements see that section of the Graduate Studies Bulletin which is arranged by certificate or specialist degree requirements, Master's degree requirements, and doctoral degree requirements.

Summary of Graduate School Requirements

Teaching Requirements

In order to serve as a Teaching Assistant, students are required to attend the GTA/IA Orientation Workshop, which is offered shortly before the start of the semester of their first semester serving as an instructor.

In addition, students must enroll in GRAD 701, the Teaching Assistant Development course, in their first semester as an instructor. This is a 1 semester zero-credit (no tuition) course that is graded pass-fail.

For more information, students should consult the Center for Teaching Excellence website: https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/cte/graduate_teaching_assistants/index.php

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to synthesize knowledge in three periods in the history of philosophy [Ancient; Medieval & Renaissance; Early Modern (17th-18th Century); and Modern (19th-20th Century)] and the core areas of philosophy [epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, logic, and Philosophy of Science].
2. Students will develop specialized knowledge of a particular philosophical area.
3. Students will conduct original and substantive research in their area of specialization.
4. Students will be able to communicate, both in writing and orally, in a professional setting.
5. Students will develop any language skills required for conducting research in their area of specialization.

Degree Requirements (60 post-baccalaureate hours)

Doctoral students who enter the Ph.D. program without a master's degree in philosophy must pass 16 graduate courses. At least 8 of these courses must be 700-level and be taken in traditional face-to-face format.

Doctoral students who enter the Ph.D. program with a master's degree in philosophy must pass 8 or more courses. At least 6 of these courses must be 700-level and be taken in traditional face-to-face format.

Both cases require at least 12 additional hours of dissertation preparation.

Core Courses

Must successfully pass within the first 2 years in the program.

Philosophy of Science

Pass at least one course.

History

Pass at least one course in each of the following 3 historical periods:

Ancient to Renaissance	
PHIL 505	Plato
PHIL 506	Aristotle
PHIL 507	Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 526	Hellenistic Philosophy
PHIL 540	Renaissance Philosophy
PHIL 701	Studies in Ancient Philosophy
Early Modern	
PHIL 501	British Empiricism
PHIL 502	Continental Rationalism
PHIL 508	Hume
PHIL 509	Kant
PHIL 705	Studies in 17 th and 18 th Century Philosophy
PHIL 707	Studies in 19 th Century Philosophy
PHIL 723	Hegel
Late Modern	
PHIL 503	Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 504	Phenomenology and Existentialism
PHIL 513	Philosophy of History
PHIL 534	Contemporary European Social Philosophy
PHIL 706	Studies in Continental Philosophy
PHIL 707	Studies in 19 th Century Philosophy
PHIL 709	Studies in 20 th Century Philosophy
PHIL 721	Pragmatism

Note: PHIL 760 (Special Topics in Philosophy) and PHIL 797 (Independent Study) may count as history courses depending on the material covered. PHIL 707 may count as satisfying either early or late modern history requirement depending on the material covered. These determinations are made by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the instructor.

Language

Learning a foreign language is an important part of professionalization as a philosopher. Doing so is often central to gaining proficiency in the history of philosophy and it enables one to engage important work being done by scholars who write in languages other than English. If a student's research area demands knowledge of a particular foreign language, the student will be expected to be proficient in that language. The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures administers tests of foreign language competency.

Satisfying the foreign language requirement may entail one of the following:

- Successful completion of an intensive reading course in a language approved by The Graduate School
- Passing grade on a language reading proficiency examination administered by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. A student may not take the competency test more than 3 times.

Students whose native language is not English may be able to use English to fulfill the foreign language requirement. An official TOEFL score of 243 for computer-based test or 590 for paper-based test.

If a doctoral student's comprehensive examination committee determines that the research area demands knowledge of one or more foreign languages, the student is required to demonstrate proficiency in at least one of those languages. This applies to all students, including those whose native language is not English. Only if the required research language is the foreign student's native language may English be used to fulfill this requirement. In rare cases, a comprehensive examination committee may determine it advisable to substitute a substantial competence in a research method relevant to their research for the foreign language requirement. The Director of Graduate Studies will give final approval of the substitution and ultimate approval of the substitution will be given by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Students should make arrangements to complete the foreign language and/or research methods requirement by discussing options with their advisory committee early in the program. Certification of foreign language (and any substitution) remains valid for 8 years.

Ph.D. Advisory Committee

Each student in the Ph.D. program will be supervised by three successive advisory committees: an initial advisory committee, a comprehensive exam committee, and a dissertation committee. These committees assist the student in developing an appropriate course of study, evaluate student progress, provide guidance and counsel, certify the completion of various degree requirements, and ensure that professional standards have been met in completing those requirements. The composition of each committee should reflect the student's interests and the area in which the student is likely to write a dissertation, though the constitution of these committees may change as the student progresses through the program.

Student Portfolio Requirement

Each doctoral student must maintain a "portfolio" of achievements in the program. This portfolio will be an essential tool for tracking and assessing the student's progress in the program. The contents of the portfolio will be available only to the student and to members of the department faculty.

The portfolio, including yearly writing samples and a dissertation proposal, will serve both as the basis for the student's admission to candidacy and as the written portion of the Ph.D. qualifying exam.

The Department's annual assessment of the graduate program as a whole will be based to some degree on a summary review of current student portfolios. Student portfolios will include at least the following items:

- The student's statement of purpose and writing sample submitted as part of their application for admission.
- A research paper representing one's best writing from each year in the program (expected by August 15 each year), until one has completed their coursework and is working exclusively on materials for the Ph.D. comprehensive exam.
- All signed advisement forms: two per year until the Ph.D. comprehensive exam is passed.
- A syllabus for each course for which the student is the instructor of record (due within a month after instruction begins).
- A summary of student evaluations of one's teaching for each course where one serves either as an instructional assistant (GIA) or as a teaching assistant (GTA), for as long as one is involved in teaching at USC.
- Copies of all classroom visitation reports for any class for which the student serves in some instructional capacity and for which such a visitation was scheduled.
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae, including (but not limited to) a chronological record of all GSA/GRA/GIA/GTA duties, a list of publications and works submitted for publication, a list of public presentations at conferences, and any record of service to department, university, community, or profession.

- Evidence of service, such as serving on university committees, helping in organizing conferences, attending colloquia and symposia.

These items should be submitted to the graduate program coordinator who will maintain a digital and a physical copy of the complete portfolio.

Student portfolios will be evaluated by the student's advisory committee every year to assess the student's development toward their professional goals. The student's portfolio and progress will be discussed with the student during the required spring advising meeting.

The faculty as a whole meets at the end of the spring semester to review students' development toward their professional goals and their overall progression through the degree requirements. Students will receive a letter from the Director of Graduate Studies summarizing the results of the annual review. Where a student's progress falls short of expectations, remedies may be prescribed that must be implemented within a specific time frame. Failure to resolve the issues within the specific time frame may result in dismissal from the program.

Admission to Doctoral Candidacy

Once a student has successfully completed all of their coursework and resolved any outstanding issues, the student must officially be "admitted to candidacy" in order to become a candidate for the doctoral degree. To be recommended for admission to candidacy, a student must pass the qualifying exam by having satisfied the following requirements.

- The student must have completed all required course work other than PHIL 899.
- The student must have submitted a Doctoral Program of Study (DPOS) form.
- The student must have selected a field for their dissertation work and a supervisor for their comprehensive exam who is most likely the student's dissertation director.
- The student's written work in graduate courses taken at USC must have been strong enough to justify a high expectation of success in the remainder of the program.
- The student must have demonstrated proficiency in any teaching duties assigned throughout the course of their graduate work, either as instructional assistants or teaching assistants.

To be considered for admission to candidacy, the student must contact the Director of Graduate Studies declaring their intention to apply for admission to candidacy. The Director of Graduate Studies will then contact the student's Advisory Committee and, if not already a member of that Committee, the proposed Chair of their Comprehensive Exam Committee, providing a copy of the student's portfolio (which should contain at least two research papers, in addition to teaching materials, and student and peer teaching evaluations). Each member of the Committee will assess the student's portfolio individually, reporting their judgment to the Director of Graduate Studies. If necessary, the Committee will jointly meet with the Director of Graduate Studies to discuss whether the student should be admitted to candidacy.

If the Committee decides that the student should be admitted to candidacy, the Director of Graduate Studies will submit a completed Doctoral Qualifying Exam Verification Form, with the date of the Committee's decision serving as the Date of the Qualifying Exam. If the Committee decides that the student should not be admitted to candidacy, they will determine whether there is a viable strategy for the student to move forward in the program, and if so, that strategy will be relayed to the student by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Final approval for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree is made by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Dissertation Proposal and Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination

The Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination is designed to assist the student in writing a dissertation. It is taken after all required course work has been completed, at a stage when a dissertation topic has been selected and a provisional but detailed proposal drawn up. The comprehensive exam is in two parts, written and oral. A dissertation proposal will serve as the cornerstone of the written portion of the Comprehensive Exam. Procedures for submitting a dissertation proposal and the structure of the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination are as follows:

- Following admission to candidacy, the student in consultation with the Graduate Director and the student's initial advisory committee should select an appropriate and willing Ph.D. comprehensive exam committee from among the department's Graduate Faculty. The Doctoral Committee Appointment Request form, G-DCA, must be submitted at this stage, checking the box for the Comprehensive Exam.
- A dissertation proposal should be formally approved by the student's Ph.D. comprehensive exam committee no later than the midpoint of the fall semester of the fourth year (or the third year for students with a previous MA). Dissertation proposals can vary in format. For example, they can include one or more of the following: a dissertation outline, a multi-page dissertation overview, a synopsis of each chapter, a sample chapter in essentially finished form, one or more finished papers on a similar topic, a substantial bibliography, a literature review, etc. What is to be included should be determined in consultation with the student's comprehensive exam committee. Overall, this written material should clearly and substantially identify the topic, thesis, and argumentative structure of the proposed dissertation. It should also provide ample evidence of the student's familiarity with relevant primary and secondary literature.
- The combination of written materials constituting a dissertation proposal (this may include one or more chapter drafts, an annotated reading list, a detailed dissertation plan) will serve as the written portion of the Ph.D. comprehensive exam.
- An oral examination will normally take place in the fall semester of the fourth year, roughly a week after approval of the written dissertation proposal. This exam takes as its starting point the written proposal but may range more broadly in order for the committee to ascertain the viability of the proposed research, specifically to determine that the proposed project is worth doing, that it is doable in a timely manner, and that the student is capable of completing the project.

- Immediately after the oral examination the committee meets to determine whether the student has passed or failed. The decision is made by majority vote. A student who fails may apply to take the examination a second time and may also apply to have the membership of the committee changed. Changes in committee membership must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. Normally the second examination will be taken no more than six months after the first. A student who fails the examination a second time or who chooses not to be re-examined will not be permitted to continue in the Ph.D. program but, upon request, may be awarded a terminal M.A. degree. If approved, the student must have fulfilled all MA degree requirements by the end of the respective academic year, including passing the MA Comprehensive Exam and filing the appropriate Change-of-Status form with the Graduate School.

Completion of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination is expected to occur by the end of the Fall semester of the fourth year, leaving time in the program for the student to work on an approved dissertation topic and to prepare for academic job placement.

Ph.D. Dissertation and Dissertation Defense

No later than five years after passing the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination, a Ph.D. student must complete a dissertation. The dissertation topic must be approved by a committee of graduate faculty members, consisting of the advisor, two other graduate faculty members judged competent in the field, and one graduate faculty member from outside the Philosophy Department. The student is expected to have whatever specialized skills are required for the dissertation topic chosen (e.g., familiarity with one of the sciences, or proficiency in a foreign language). At the time the dissertation is submitted the student must also provide an abstract of the dissertation.

To complete the requirements for the Ph.D., the student must successfully defend their dissertation before an examining committee appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. The committee will consist of no fewer than four members, of whom at least one is from another department. Typically, these will be the same professors who are members of the student's Dissertation Committee. The dissertation defense should take place not less than thirty days before the date at which the candidate expects to receive their degree. If a student does not complete their dissertation within the five year period that begins with passing the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination, it is up to the student's dissertation advisor to determine what counts as satisfactory progress in each subsequent year.

II. Additional Clarifications

General Remarks about Ph.D. Program Advisement

The following remarks apply to advisement at all stages of the Ph.D. program, from the initial advisory committee through the dissertation committee. The idea of always having a committee of at least three advisors is aimed at ensuring a broad range of advice and

minimizing problems associated with contingencies such as sabbatical leave. Advisory committee members are an important source of information and academic guidance. A student should inform their primary advisor immediately of any difficulties encountered. Regular meetings with one's current advisory committee provide opportunities to inform the student about their overall progress through the program. These meetings also provide opportunities to address complaints and suggestions concerning the program.

A student's funding for a given semester may be withheld until the Graduate Director receives written verification of the student's meeting with their advisory committee at least once during the previous semester. Until the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam is completed, the student is also expected to meet with all available members of the advisory committee jointly at least once per academic year, typically in the Spring semester, to assess the contents of the student's portfolio at that juncture. The comprehensive exam committee and dissertation committee should also meet jointly at least once per academic year.

It is the student's responsibility to contact advisory committee members and arrange these meetings. Once per semester, advisors must sign the student's "PhD Student Advising Form" for the given academic year. These forms are to be kept by the student as part of the portfolio, though a photocopy of the completed form should be given to the Assessment Director after the joint meeting in the Spring.

The student may at any time petition the Graduate Director for a change in the make-up of their advisory committee. Faculty members may become unavailable, or the student's work may change in such a way that he or she may need to work with other faculty members. Changes in the constitution of the dissertation committee must receive the consent of the Graduate Director and a majority of the current committee. Such changes should be avoided upon nearing completion of the dissertation.

In instances of unresolved conflicting advice, the Graduate Director should be consulted. The Graduate Director supervises the graduate program, acting on behalf of the Department in all academic matters concerning graduate students. The Graduate Director interprets the requirements to students and acts to enforce Departmental rules and policies. The Graduate Director also acts as an advocate for the graduate students to the Department.

Clarifications about Ph.D. Course Requirements

Graduate work done prior to entering the Ph.D. program may, at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies, count towards the satisfaction of the Ph.D. course requirements, but will not reduce the number or degree hours that must be completed.

Every effort is made to offer the core courses sequentially in a two-year cycle. Ph.D. students should plan course loads around this cycle so that they complete the required core courses by the end of their second year in the program.

Students in the Ph.D. program normally should take 3 courses in each semester of their first two years, and 2 courses in each semester of their third year.

Limits on Independent Study Courses

For Ph.D. students, a maximum of two independent study courses (797, *Independent Study*, or 598, *Readings in Philosophy*) may count towards overall course requirements. This does not mean that one has a “right” to two independent study courses. Approval to register for such courses must be obtained from the Department Chair and from the Director of Graduate Studies. The decision normally will be based on whether the material covered by the independent study is not part of a course offered during the student’s enrollment at USC and whether it is indispensable (a) for the student’s dissertation work and cannot be considered as part of the usual preparatory reading or (b) for the profile of the student on the basis of which she/he wants to go on the job market. At the discretion of the Graduate Director, an exception for more than one independent study course may be based on shortage of regular course offerings necessary for a student’s timely completion of coursework.

Graduation

Graduation from the Ph.D. program first requires approval from the department and ultimately, approval from The Graduate School. Upon departmental approval, students must apply for graduation via the Office of the Registrar’s website. Deadlines are applied for each graduating term (spring, summer, and fall). Details are available on the websites for The Graduate School and The Office of the Registrar.

1. Candidates must apply for graduation.
2. The Graduate School requires students to be enrolled for at least one credit hour (PHIL 899) for the semester a student plans to graduate.
3. Ph.D. candidates must defend dissertations at least 30 days before the date expected to graduate. Each committee member must receive a copy of the dissertation at least 3 weeks prior to the defense date.

M.A. in Philosophy

I. Overview of Requirements

M.A. students must satisfy the requirements of the Department of Philosophy and the requirements of the Graduate School. Note that many of the requirements of the Graduate School both recapitulate and elaborate on the requirements of the Department of Philosophy.

I.a. Overview of Departmental Requirements

Students in the M.A. program may elect either the thesis option or the non-thesis option. Students who choose to write a thesis are required to take at least 8 courses prior to the thesis. Students who choose to not write a thesis are required to take at least 11 courses.

All students must satisfy two course requirements.

1. Logic Requirement
Successful completion of PHIL 511 (Symbolic Logic)

2. History of Philosophy Requirement
Successful completion of at least two upper-level history of philosophy courses. At least one course must be from the category **Ancient to Renaissance Philosophy** and at least one course must be from the category **Early to Late Modern Philosophy**.

All students must satisfy the Language Requirement (a reading knowledge of one foreign language).

Both thesis and non-thesis students must pass the M.A. Comprehensive Examination. Thesis students must also write a Master's Thesis.

Students must maintain no less than a "B" average. Students risk expulsion from the program if grades of less than a "B" for more than 2 courses are earned. A grade of "D" is considered failing and cannot count toward degree completion.

Note that the philosophy department does not offer graduate courses during the summer terms; however, a PHIL 797 (Independent Study) course may be approved and arranged with a faculty member during the summer terms.

I.b. Overview of Graduate School Requirements *(as recorded in the Graduate Bulletin 2022-2023)*

Summary of Policies and Regulations

All graduate students are subject to the academic policies, regulations, and academic standards of both The Graduate School and the department, school and/or college in which enrolled. Graduate programs may have more stringent standards and additional regulations and requirements than that of The Graduate School. Program academic policies, regulations, and standards are available from the graduate director of the program. Contact information for academic programs is available on the website of The Graduate School.

It is the responsibility of all students to be aware of USC academic standards and their own academic record. At the very least, students should check their Record of Academic Work in

Self Service Carolina at the conclusion of each semester. The academic record will list any academic or registration issues or probationary status that requires attention by the student.

Graduate students are bound by the academic policies, regulations, standards, and degree requirements found in the Graduate Studies Bulletin in effect at the term of enrollment. With approval of the academic program in which enrolled and the dean of The Graduate School, a student may elect during the course of a program of study to change to standards, regulations, and requirements found in a subsequent Graduate Studies Bulletin. However, the student may not pick and choose from different Bulletins, but must select one Graduate Studies Bulletin during the period of the student's graduate enrollment and conform to all policies, regulations, and degree requirements of the selected Bulletin.

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Students are advised that there are no guarantees that a particular course or program of study can be delivered by the University at a time convenient for every student. Unforeseen circumstances may interfere with the scheduling of any given course or degree offering. Students must be prepared for such occurrences even if students experience delays in fulfilling academic goals or require modification of those goals. Academic units and The Graduate School will work closely with students to resolve academic issues.

Note: For detailed information on Degree Requirements see that section of the Graduate Studies Bulletin which is arranged by certificate or specialist degree requirements, Master's degree requirements, and doctoral degree requirements.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to synthesize a wide breadth of philosophical knowledge, including factual, conceptual, and procedural knowledge.
2. Students will be able to conduct original research of an extended investigation in philosophy.

Degree Requirements (30 Hours)

Students in the M.A. program may elect either the thesis or non-thesis option.

Course Requirements

Students in the M.A. program may elect either the thesis or non-thesis option. Students in the M.A. program who choose to write a thesis are required to take eight graduate philosophy

courses (24 non-thesis semester hours), at least four of which must be 700-level and be taken in traditional face-to-face format. An additional 6 semester hours of PHIL 799 (Thesis Preparation) are also required. Without a thesis, eleven courses (33 non-thesis semester hours) are required, at least 6 of which must be 700-level and be taken in traditional face-to-face format.

Logic Requirement

Successful completion of PHIL 511 (Symbolic Logic), taken either as an upper-level undergraduate course or as part of the graduate program, is required of all M.A. students.

History Requirement

Successful completion of at least two upper-level history-of-philosophy courses is required of all M.A. students: at least one from Ancient to Renaissance Philosophy, and at least one from Early to Late Modern Philosophy.

Ancient to Renaissance	
PHIL 505	Plato
PHIL 506	Aristotle
PHIL 507	Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 526	Hellenistic Philosophy
PHIL 540	Renaissance Philosophy
PHIL 701	Studies in Ancient Philosophy
Early to Late Modern	
PHIL 501	British Empiricism
PHIL 502	Continental Rationalism
PHIL 508	Hume
PHIL 509	Kant
PHIL 705	Studies in 17 th and 18 th Century Philosophy
PHIL 707	Studies in 19 th Century Philosophy
PHIL 723	Hegel
PHIL 503	Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 504	Phenomenology and Existentialism
PHIL 513	Philosophy of History
PHIL 534	Contemporary European Social Philosophy
PHIL 706	Studies in Continental Philosophy
PHIL 707	Studies in 19 th Century Philosophy
PHIL 709	Studies in 20 th Century Philosophy
PHIL 721	Pragmatism

Note: PHIL 760 (Special Topics in Philosophy) and PHIL 797 (Independent Study) may count as history courses. This will be determined by material to be covered. PHIL 707 may count as either early or late modern history requirement depending upon the material to be covered. These determinations are made by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the instructor.

Language Requirement

A reading knowledge of one foreign language is required of all M.A. students. The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures administers tests of foreign language competency.

M.A. Advisory Committee

Non-thesis students are typically advised by the Director of Graduate Studies and one other faculty member. Thesis students will be assigned a thesis committee consisting of an advisor and a second reader. The thesis committee will be assigned by the beginning of the student's second year in the program.

The Comprehensive Examination

The M.A. Comprehensive Exam is a written exam consisting of a revised version of one of the student's first-year papers or a similarly-high-quality paper on an approved topic of interest to the student. This paper will be assessed by two faculty members, to be designated by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the student and possible examiners. Normally the paper will be written under the supervision of at least one of the examiners.

The M.A. comprehensive exam is intended to demonstrate mastery of the skills required for basic philosophical writing. These include the ability to articulate and defend a thesis on the basis of argument and textual interpretation. The standards for assessing the M.A. exam lie between the standards for evaluating undergraduate work and PhD-level work. While the M.A. comprehensive exam assesses many of the same skills involved in undergraduate writing, the exam holds students to a high standard, because it requires mastery of these skills. On the other hand, the M.A. comprehensive exam is less demanding than the Ph.D. comprehensive exam, because the former does not require students to make an original contribution to the literature and, consequently, does not require the level of research needed to show that such a standard has been met. Rather, the extent of research involved in the MA comprehensive exam is variable and depends upon the paper topic and the judgment of the faculty advisor.

These papers will vary in length (15 to 30 pages, 12pt, double-spaced, etc.). A final version must be submitted to the examiners and to the Director of Graduate Studies by August 15 prior to the beginning of the student's second year in the program.

These papers are graded "pass" or "fail." The result will be reported to the Graduate Director and to the student within ten days of the examiners' receipt of the paper. A student whose August 15 paper does not pass may resubmit a revised version at most once any time before

the following January 16. The result of that second assessment will determine whether the student passes or fails the M.A. Comprehensive Exam.

Thesis Option

Students who choose the thesis option must also write a master's thesis. The thesis topic should be chosen in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and a member of the Graduate Faculty. The latter will act as thesis director and first reader. Another member of the faculty, appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies, will act as second reader. A thesis proposal approved by the two readers should be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies, normally within sixty days of the date on which the M.A. Comprehensive Examination is passed. The proposal should be several pages in length, outlining the topic and argumentative structure of the proposed thesis. It should include a title, and be accompanied by a fairly substantial bibliography.

Theses vary in length, but are typically about 15,000 words long (60 pages, double-spaced). Normally a thesis goes through a number of drafts before it is approved. A final draft of the thesis must be submitted to the two readers for their approval at least five weeks before the end of the term in which the student plans to graduate. The thesis must comply with the guidelines stipulated by The Graduate School and submitted electronically.

II. Additional Clarifications

Limits on Independent Study Courses

For M.A. students, at most one independent study course (797, *Independent Study*, or 598, *Readings in Philosophy*) may count towards overall course requirements. This does not mean that one has a "right" to one independent study course. Approval to register for such a course must be obtained from the Department Chair and from the Director of Graduate Studies. The decision normally will be based on whether the material covered by the independent study is not part of a course offered during the student's enrollment at USC and whether it is indispensable (a) for the student's thesis work and cannot be considered as part of the usual preparatory reading or (b) for the profile of the student on the basis of which she/he wants to continue further Ph.D. studies, assuming that the intended topic would not normally be part of such studies. At the discretion of the Graduate Director, an exception for more than one independent study course may be based on shortage of regular course offerings necessary for a student's timely completion of coursework.

Timetables for Completion

MA without Thesis		
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Fall—Year 1	3 courses (9 credit hours)	*6 courses (18 credit hours) must be 700-level taken throughout length of program
Spring—Year 1	3 courses (9 credit hours)	
Summer—Year 1		Submit comprehensive examination paper
Fall—Year 2	3 courses (9 credit hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulative credit hours—27 • File Program of Study (G-DPOS) • Apply for spring graduation in December
Spring—Year 2	2 courses (6 credit hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulative credit hours—33 • Ensure graduation requirements are complete

MA with Thesis		
Fall—Year 1	3 courses (9 credit hours)	*Must include PHIL 511
Spring—Year 1	3 courses (9 credit hours)	
Summer—Year 1		Submit comprehensive examination paper
Fall—Year 2	2 courses (6 credit hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulative credit hours—24 • File Program of Study (G-DPOS) • Submit thesis proposal
Spring—Year 2	PHIL 799 (6 credit hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulative credit hours—30
Summer	Complete thesis	Apply for graduation

Applying from the M.A. to the Ph.D. Program

Current M.A. students may apply for admission to the Ph.D. program. In accordance with Graduate School policy, if it has been more than three years since your last Graduate School enrollment at USC, the student must submit a formal application to enter the Ph.D. program. This application should include an up-to-date transcript, three letters of recommendation, an official record of GRE scores, a sample of philosophical writing (maximum length, 6,000 words), a 400-word statement of purpose, and an application fee. These materials should reach the Graduate School on or before January 15th. M.A. students who are currently enrolled and are in good standing need only submit a "Change of Status" (COS) form to the Graduate School along with a non-refundable change-of-status fee.

Applications from students in the M.A. program will be reviewed by the Department alongside applications from external candidates. Philosophical ability and the level of commitment necessary for success in a doctoral program, as evidenced by course work in the M.A. program, will carry considerable weight. The student's performance on the M.A. Comprehensive Examination will also be taken into consideration, as will any evidence of superior teaching ability. Nonetheless, internal applicants should be aware that the Department admits a limited number of all those who apply to the Ph.D. program in a given year.

Graduation

Graduation from the master's program first requires approval from the department and ultimately, approval from The Graduate School. Upon departmental approval, students must apply for graduation via the Office of the Registrar's website. Deadlines are applied for each graduating term (spring, summer, and fall). Details are available on the websites for The Graduate School and The Office of the Registrar.

1. Candidates must apply for graduation.
2. The Graduate School requires students to be enrolled for at least one credit hour (PHIL 799) for the semester a student plans to graduate.
3. Masters candidates' thesis must be approved at the department and submitted to The Graduate School by their deadline.