Philosophy, Ph.D.

The main areas of concentration in the graduate curriculum are metaphysics, epistemology, history of philosophy, philosophy of science, social and political philosophy, logic, and value theory.

Learning Outcomes

- Breadth of knowledge: demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of areas in philosophy—metaphysics and epistemology; value theory; history of philosophy; and logic, philosophy of mathematics, and philosophy of science.
- Depth of knowledge: demonstrate advanced knowledge in a primary area of specialization and substantial knowledge in a distinct, secondary area, to support teaching and potentially research in that area.
- Scholarship and research skills: develop specific research projects, including the central project of the dissertation; and develop the skills required to conduct research at a professional level, including philosophical writing and communication skills, the ability to engage others' work, and the ability to make substantial contributions in the field.
- Teaching skills and pedagogy: demonstrate effective teaching skills that are in line with pedagogical standards in the discipline, acquire teaching competence in a wide range of areas, and develop pedagogical tools for effective engagement with their students.
- Professionalization and career preparation: understand the disciplinary norms and standards of research, professional and collegial engagement with others, and responsibilities related to teaching; and develop a portfolio and skills contributing to one's career prospects, guided by one's career goals and interests, and informed by knowledge of different possible career opportunities and trajectories.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in philosophy requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Graduate students must take Department of Philosophy courses (prefix PHIL) that are numbered 4000 and above. Students must earn a program g.p.a. of at least 3.00. Candidacy for the doctoral program is determined by a formal vote of the entire Department of Philosophy faculty, usually after a student has completed three semesters of graduate study in residence.

Requirements include courses in metaphysics, epistemology, history of philosophy, logic, philosophy of science, and value theory. See Courses in this section of the Catalog for a complete listing of philosophy courses.

Students are required to take a comprehensive examination that includes both a written dissertation prospectus and an oral defense. Upon successfully completing the exam, they begin work on their dissertation. There is no world language requirement. Contact the graduate studies director for more information.

Career Advancement

The graduate program is designed to train teachers and scholars in philosophy. The Department of Philosophy also is invested in helping students to use their philosophical training careers outside of academia.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.