

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR
PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
GRADUATE STUDENTS

WORK FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

A.

2. Course Requirements

A total of 15 courses are required. The course requirements are divided into two parts: a Foundation Requirement and an Advanced Requirement. Up to three appropriate graduate level courses from other departments may be used to satisfy Ph.D. program course requirements, but only with the written approval of the student's faculty advisor.

a) Foundation Requirements

By the end of the 3rd semester in the program, students must complete six (6) 400-level courses including:

- 1) One 400-level logic course.
- 2) One 400-level history of ancient philosophy course.
- 3) One 400-level history of modern philosophy course.
- 4) At least three other 400-level courses.
- 5) No course transferred from another institution fulfills any of the six 400-level course requirements above (a-d).

(Note: It may turn out that some 400-level courses will not satisfy the Fo

third year when they choose the area of their primary exam. Course requirements for each area follow. No course transferred from another institution fulfills any of the primary or secondary area requirements. Course requirements should be satisfied no later than the semester in which the student takes the primary or secondary exam except under exceptional circumstances.

Students are required to notify the department office once the areas of concentration are selected. Students must also supply the office with names of the two faculty examining committee member once the appropriate committee has been formed.

Concentration area requirements:

Epistemology

Primary area

One 400-level course in epistemology

One 500-level seminar in epistemology

Secondary area _____

Same as Primary

Ethics

Primary area

Either (a) Two 500-level ethics seminars (repeats of PHL 517 are okay if they _____

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Metaphysics

Primary area

One 400-level course in metaphysics

One 500-level seminar in metaphysics

Secondary area

Same as Primary

Philosophy of Language

Primary area

One 400-level course in philosophy of language

One 500-level seminar in philosophy of language

Secondary area

Same as Primary

Philosophy of Mind

Primary area

One 400-level course in philosophy of mind

One 500-level seminar in philosophy of mind

Secondary area

Same as Primary

Philosophy of Science

Primary area

PHL 452 and at least one seminar in philosophy of science.

In addition, when declaring the concentration, the student should declare either philosophy of physics or philosophy of biology as an area of specialized expertise. The primary exam will consist of ten questions in general philosophy of science and two questions in their chosen area of specialized expertise (philosophy of physics or biology).

Secondary area

PHL 452 and at least one seminar in philosophy of science.

4) Each student must take a comprehensive 3-hour closed book written exam in his/her primary concentration area. The exam will consist of 3 questions selected by the exam committee from a list of approximately 12 questions distributed at least a semester or a summer prior to the exam. A reading list will also be distributed with the questions. The exam committee will be composed of at least two faculty members chosen by the student in consultation with the student's principal advisor in the concentration area.

5) Each student must take an exam in his/her secondary concentration area. The exam will be on the general topic of a paper chosen by the student. The exam committee will be composed of at least two faculty members chosen by the student in consultation with the student's principal advisor in the concentration area. The paper is selected by the student and a suitable reading list on its topic will be drawn up by the student and the appropriate faculty member. The student may select either an oral or a written exam.

Primary and secondary exams will be given at the beginning of each academic year, at the beginning of the Spring semester, and during the final exam week of each semester. Students should write out the Honor Pledge and sign it when exam is taken. To remain in good standing, a student

up to three of the nine additional advanced course requirements. Transferred courses do not fulfill either the six course foundations requirement or the primary and secondary area course requirements.

4. Teaching Requirements

Serving as a teaching assistant for philosophy courses or as an instructor in the Writing, Speaking, and Argument (WSA) Program during each fall and spring semester of years 2-5 is a degree requirement that provides experience in aspects of college teaching. All students must also enroll, normally in the 3rd year of the program, in one semester of PHL 581 (4 credit hours, Supervised Instruction: Lectures to Undergraduates), unless they are selected as the instructor for hh ()) JT(n) 0T 50 0s-0.2 (i) 0.1 (o) JTJ ET Q0s C

- c) an indication of the student's preference regarding advisors
- d) the Honor Pledge

The Department will decide whether to grant the student's petition. If the petition is denied, the student will be informed of the reasons for its denial. If the petition is approved, then the Chair will recommend to the Dean a committee of three faculty members to evaluate the student's record. If the committee finds that the student has satisfactorily completed all the requirements described above, the student passes the Qualifying Examination. The Qualifying Examination must be passed at least seven months prior to the date of the Final Examination on the thesis.

A student who has passed the Qualifying Examination is excused from all

open to the public, during which the candidate presents his/her thesis, and a closed part, during which the candidate discusses the thesis with the members of the Final Examination Committee.

University regulations require that the dissertation be approved by the research supervisor before the candidate may take the final examination.

A vote of approval of the final oral examining committee must be unanimous, but if there is a single dissenting vote the case will be presented

At the beginning of the semester, the instructor of the undergraduate course will meet with the teaching assistants assigned to that course to discuss the objectives of the course, the role that he or she expects them to play in it (such as grading, meeting with students, and running review or discussion sessions), and to determine specific grading policies. The final responsibility for the assignment of grades should be determined at that time.

Given the purpose of the assistantship, the instructor is encouraged to allow graduate students conducting section meetings to introduce new material when this is appropriate to the nature of the course.

Graduate students conducting section meetings are encouraged to invite the instructor of the course to attend a few of the meetings, with a view to providing advice on teaching technique.

The instructor under whom a student is taking 580 will be available for consultation, advice, and discussion concerning the conduct of sections, the grading of papers, and the like. Graduate students are encouraged to make use of this availability. When appropriate, criticism of the T.A.'s performance will be made at these private meetings.

To insure both fairness to undergraduates, and to enhance the educational value to the graduate student, the following guidelines for grading sets of papers will be followed:

- 1) When appropriate and feasible, the instructor will meet with the T.A.'s to read some of the undergraduate tests and papers with them.
- 2) Grading standards for a set of papers should be set out in private consultation between the instructor and the T.A. before the grading of that set of papers, or according to prior agreement.
- 3) In cases in which more than one person grades papers of one assignment, the grading standards and corrected papers should be compared to assure parity of grading.
- 4) During the course of a semester, should a professor decide to change a grade originally assigned by a T.A., he or she is urged to consult with that assistant, if possible, in order to explain the reason for that change.
- 5) The instructor is urged to review sets of graded papers before returning them to undergraduates.
- 6) No graduate student T.A. should grade the assignments, papers, or tests of another graduate student or assign a course grade to another graduate student.

At the end of the semester, graduate students are encouraged to administer to their sections an evaluation form which has been developed by philosophy graduate students to offer guidance for the improvement of their teaching. At the student's option the results may be discussed with the instructor.

There will be a final meeting near the end of the semester, before the semester-end general faculty evaluation of students, at which the instructor will privately review, with the T.A., her/his performance in 580.

The instructor will submit an evaluation of the student's performance to be included in the student's departmental letter of evaluation.

If the assistant believes that these guidelines have not been followed, he should first consult the instructor. If the difficulties cannot be resolved by this consultation, the assistant should appeal to the chair of the department or another faculty member in the department who will seek to adjudicate the disagreement.

Training in preparation for college teaching is part of the Ph.D. program and will be judged by the same standards applied in seminars and courses. 580 carries 0 hours of credit and a grade is reported at the end of the semester. In the semesters when a student is registered for 580, he/she will not normally register for more than twelve hours of other course work.

D. PARTICIPATION IN WRITING, SPEAKING, AND ARGUMENT (WSA) PROGRAM

Students in their second and third years are eligible to apply to teach in the WSA program in lieu of serving as assistants in Philosophy courses, when openings for philosophy graduate students are available. Availability has been limited to 3 philosophy graduate students at any one time, and may be adjusted in the future, to ensure that departmental needs for teaching assistants are met. Teaching in the WSA program is limited to 2 years for students in years three-five, and 2 years of service is what is expected by WSA.

All freshmen in the College are required to take a WSA course, which introduces them to the art of writing well-

must be given explicitly to the student by the Department.

4. Incomplete Grades

Under Departmental rules, the grade of I should only be used in conjunction

8. Optional Certification in a Foreign Language

The Department conducts examinations in Greek, Latin, French, and German for those who want to establish credentials in a foreign language.

September of each year. To be assured of funding, job seekers must declare their intentions to the philosophy Placement Director by September 1. Please note that reimbursement for interview expenses is subject to federal income taxes under IRS regulations. Travel to give a talk does not qualify as taxable income.

The remaining funds will be designated as "Departmental Travel Awards." They will be allocated as requests are received, with priority being given to talks at the APAs, national and international conferences, and other professional meetings. Requests should be made in writing to the department Chair as early in the academic year as possible, and they should identify the talk or response, conference and venue, dates, and estimated costs.

Funds will be allocated in advance of a trip; reimbursement of actual incurred costs is made on the basis of receipts provided to the department's Administrative Assistant.

12. Graduate Student Exchange Scholar Program

The following description is from the :
"Cornell, Syracuse, and Rochester offer graduate students the opportunity, when the appropriate course or facility is unavailable in the home university, to take special courses and seminars and to use the libraries at the other two universities. Inasmuch as each university has unique courses and programs, this exchange considerably expands opportunities for some students. More information about this program is available in the Office of the University Dean of Graduate Studies."

Students must secure permission from the instructor and apply 6 weeks in advance of the term. Each student is limited to no more than 2 exchange courses, and such courses may not be used to fulfill foundations or seminar requirements for the degree. They do count towards the total of 90 funded Ph.D. credit hours.

13. Preparing for the Job Market

The year a student expects to go on the job market, the department recommends that the student prepare a jobs talk to be given to the department in September or October. In November or December, the student with the help of the Placement Director should schedule a mock job interview.

