

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The following presents chronologically and adds specificity to the official statement of degree requirements, which is available here: <http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/pgmrq/philos.asp>.

### OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTORATE

#### *Preliminary Requirements: undergraduate work*

We hope that students will enter our PhD program having completed an undergraduate course of study that included first-order logic and some breadth in the history of philosophy. The Logic Fluency Requirement and the History Distribution Requirement are designed to ensure either that this is so or that, if not, students will do work in these areas in their time as a graduate student.

The History Distribution Requirement can be satisfied by showing that you studied certain figures as an undergraduate (details below). Students who have not already studied these figures will be asked to include them in their coursework as a graduate student. The Logic Fluency Requirement is satisfied either by passing an exam or by earning a B in an undergraduate logic course (details below).

#### *Coursework as a Graduate Student*

Candidates for the Ph.D. will complete 16 courses, all but two of which must be graduate or upper-division courses in the Philosophy Department at UCLA (Philos 100–Philos 289). Only courses in Groups I–IV satisfy the course requirements; “Special Studies” courses, including 500 series, the 290’s, and individual studies courses, do not. (See the “electives” section below for the conditions in which courses outside of UCLA Philosophy may count toward the 16 courses.)

Courses are to be chosen so as to satisfy the more specific course requirements detailed below. Two of the required 16 courses may be taken on an S/U basis as long as a total of 14 graduate or upper-division courses are taken for a letter grade within the Philosophy Department at UCLA and are passed with a grade of B or better, satisfying the specific requirements below. Only elective courses may be taken S/U (and at most two)

Passing the departmental Foreign Language Reading Exam in French, German, Latin, or Greek counts as having taken one of the 16 courses and reduces the total number of required courses to 15, 14 of which are required to be taken for a letter grade within the Philosophy Department and passed with a grade of B or better. (When relevant to a student’s doctoral research, another language may be substituted with the consent of the department.)

Courses taken before entering the graduate program do not count toward satisfaction of course requirements (other than towards the history distribution requirement). (Students who have completed a substantial amount of graduate work elsewhere may petition the Graduate Advisor(s) for limited exceptions to this policy.)

**Students are to enter their third year with only two *elective* courses**

**outstanding.** All non-elective course requirements are to be completed in the first two years. (In the third year, students will write the proposition, details of which appear in a later section.) All course requirements must be completed before taking one's pre-dissertation orals and advancing to candidacy in the fourth year.

*Other Requirements: exams, research, teaching, and the dissertation*

In addition to satisfying the course requirements, candidates for the Ph.D. take the Master's Competency Exam and pass the Logic Fluency Exam during their first year. In their third year they write a proposition. They must pass an oral examination on their Dissertation Proposal by the end of their fourth year. The Dissertation is written in the fifth and sixth year. In addition, students must complete three quarters of a teaching practicum to earn the PhD (this is ordinarily done in the course of TA-ing).

Students are expected to enroll in 12 units each quarter while in residence, throughout their career at UCLA (i.e. until the time they graduate and leave the program, even after they have completed their course requirements). This is very important for the financing of our graduate program.

**REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET DURING THE FIRST YEAR**

During the first year students enroll in three courses each term and take either three or four exams, detailed below. Choose your courses with an eye to the following requirements:

*The Logic Fluency Requirement*

Students must either pass the Logic Fluency exam, which covers basic material (primarily derivations and symbolizations) in first order logic, or pass Philosophy 132 (previously 32 and 137) with a grade of "B" or better. (If taken, Philosophy 137 counts towards the course requirements as an elective. If the student chooses to take the course S/U, an S will be awarded for work that would earn a B or better.) **This requirement is to be done in the first year.** Philosophy 132 is offered each spring. Sample exam questions to practice on are provided. *Note: taking Philosophy 132 requires doing the computer-based homework for Philosophy 31. Talk to the instructor of those courses for further information.* Students who have passed Philosophy 132 or its equivalent before entering the graduate program are not exempted from this requirement.

*History Distribution Requirement*

Students must take or have taken *for a grade* graduate or undergraduate courses that devote substantial attention to each of the following: Plato, Aristotle, an important medieval philosopher, Descartes, a British empiricist, and Kant.

Students may complete this requirement by petitioning the graduate advisor for credit for courses taken previous to entering the program, and/or by taking undergraduate or graduate courses that cover the relevant material, and/or by taking (all or part of) Philosophy 100A–C, (Philosophy 100A satisfies the requirement for Plato and Aristotle; 100B satisfies the requirement for an important medieval philosopher and Descartes; 100C satisfies the requirement for a British empiricist and Kant.)

To aid in selecting courses during the first year, **students should file their petitions for credit for prior work (the “History Distribution Petition”) with the graduate advisor(s) during the first three weeks of their first year.**

### *First Year Seminar*

During the first year, Ph.D. candidates will complete, with a B grade or higher, the three courses constituting the Seminar for First-Year Graduate Students (200A, 200B, and 200C). This series of seminars provides an overview of philosophy through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Master's Comprehensive Examination, in three parts*

During the first year, each student will take, in three parts, the Master's Comprehensive Examination (or MAC Exam).

The MAC Exam is based on material covered in the Seminar for First-Year Graduate Students (200A–C). It is given in three parts, each part covering one quarter of the Seminar and typically administered by the instructor for that quarter at the beginning of the next. (The instructor for 200A typically administers the MAC Exam for 200A at the beginning of Winter quarter; the instructor for 200B typically administers the MAC Exam for 200B at the beginning of Spring quarter; but the instructor for 200C typically administers the MAC Exam for 200C during the last week of Spring quarter.)

The examination is passed or failed as a whole, which does not necessarily require passing of all three parts. Passage of the MAC exam is a necessary condition for being awarded the MA degree. The Department does not require any written examination to be passed by students as a condition of advancing to candidacy. It does, however, require each student to take the Master's Comprehensive Examination, which the Department may use for diagnostic purposes.

### *The Logic Course Requirement*

In addition to satisfying the Logic Fluency Requirement (see above), students must also complete one upper-division (or higher) course in logic. This is normally to be done during the first year. The course is to be Philosophy 135 unless the student has already completed a course in the metalogic of first-order logic, in which case the student may petition the Graduate Advisor to substitute another logic course for 135.

### *The History Graduate Course Requirement (2 courses)*

Students must complete two graduate courses on pre-Twentieth Century figures (Philos 201–220 or 245), one of which is not concurrent with an undergraduate course. At least one of these two courses is to be completed during the first year. Note that *only* philosophers whose primary work was completed before the Twentieth Century are counted as historical figures for the purposes of the History Graduate Course Requirement. Note, too, that if 245 is used to satisfy the History requirement, that same course cannot be used to satisfy the Ethics or the Special Area requirement (no one course may be double-counted).

## **REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET DURING THE FIRST OR THE SECOND YEAR**

### *The Ethics Graduate Course Requirement*

Students must complete one four-unit graduate course in ethics or value theory (Philos 240–259).

### *The Metaphysics and Epistemology Graduate Course Requirement*

Students must complete one four-unit graduate course in metaphysics or epistemology (Philos 270–289, 232, and often, by petition, other philosophy of science courses).

### *The Special Area Requirement*

Students who write a proposition (see below) on a topic in metaphysics or epistemology (including work in the history of philosophy about such topics) must take one *additional* graduate seminar in ethics and value theory, choosing from among Philosophy 241, 245, 246, 247, and 248. Students who write a proposition on a topic in ethics or value theory (including work in the history of philosophy about such topics) must take one *additional* graduate seminar in metaphysics or epistemology, choosing from among Philosophy 271, 275, 281, 282, 283, and 286.

### *Electives*

Students are to take enough electives (typically five) to make a total of 14 upper-division and graduate level courses in philosophy (not including individual studies courses) at UCLA. These five electives must be taken for a letter grade. (Courses taken to fulfill the specific requirements described above count toward this total. Only courses in Groups I-IV satisfy the requirement; “Special Studies” courses, including 500 series, the 290’s, and individual studies courses, do not.)

In addition, students are to complete two additional elective courses, which may be taken on an S/U basis and may, with the approval of the Graduate Advisor, be taken outside of the UCLA Philosophy Department (i.e. in another department at UCLA or in the Philosophy Department of some other institution). (Students should consult with faculty members within their area of interest as to the appropriateness of courses outside of the department.) One of these additional electives may be waived by passing the Department’s Foreign Language Reading Exam in French, German, Latin, or Greek. When relevant to a student’s doctoral research, another language may be substituted with the consent of the department.

Upon completing the requirements for the M.A. (see below) students are encouraged to file for that degree.

## **REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET DURING THE SECOND YEAR**

### *Teaching Requirement*

Students will begin their teaching practicum during their second year. Ph.D. candidates must complete three quarters of Philosophy 375: Teaching Apprentice Practicum to earn their degree (this is normally done in the course of TA-ing).

## REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET DURING THE THIRD YEAR

### *Proposition Requirement*

Before beginning dissertation work (and before taking the qualifying oral examinations and advancing to candidacy), students write an extended paper of between 7500 and 9000 words (25-30 pages) that treats some specific philosophical problem that roughly falls into either the category of metaphysics and epistemology or ethics and value theory. (As described above, students will take one graduate seminar in an area complementary to that in which they write the proposition. Students should consult with the Graduate Advisor to determine the category into which the selected proposition topic falls.)

The intent of the proposition requirement is to provide an opportunity for students to recognize, formulate, and think through philosophical problems, to engage in substantial revision and rewriting, and to write a more polished piece of work than is typical in the time frame associated with seminars.

It is recommended that the proposition be a substantial development of a previous seminar paper. However, it can also be a piece of work on a new topic. The proposition will be read and graded by two faculty members, one of whom is the student's Proposition Advisor. It must be completed before a student can advance to candidacy. For more detailed timeline and instruction, please consult the later section, "The Proposition."

Immediately after the Proposition is completed, a student must choose an interim advisor to guide them through the initial stages of advancing to candidacy. (Please see the section "Advancing to Candidacy" below for details.)

## REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET DURING THE THIRD OR THE FOURTH YEAR

### *Doctoral Oral Qualifying Examination*

After completing the course requirements and the proposition, students sign up for independent research with a faculty member (or faculty members) to develop a project for a dissertation. The student assembles a proposal—a substantial piece of work that outlines the project and some of its central questions and ideas. When the student's primary faculty advisor on the project feels the proposal is sufficiently developed, the student forms a committee (in consultation with his or her primary faculty advisor) and schedules an oral qualifying examination. All other requirements *must* be completed before the oral examination may be taken. Students must pass this exam to advance to candidacy for the Ph.D. Students can take their qualifying exam and advance to candidacy as early as the Spring of their third year. Students must advance to candidacy by **the end of the Spring quarter of their fourth year**. (For administrative details about this process, see the later section "Advancing to Candidacy".)

Upon advancing, students earn another degree: the C.Phil., or "Candidate in Philosophy."

## **REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BETWEEN THE FOURTH YEAR AND THE SIXTH YEAR**

### *Dissertation*

Under the direction of the doctoral committee, students complete a dissertation that represents an original contribution in a chosen field. This dissertation should be completed and filed no later than the end of the seventh year.

### *Final Oral Examination*

At the Oral Qualifying Examination, a student's doctoral committee will decide whether the student will be required to take a Final Oral Examination upon completion of the dissertation.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE**

For the M.A. degree, students must pass with a grade of B or better a total of nine upper division or graduate courses, including the First Year Seminar and Philosophy 135. At least five of the nine must be graduate courses. They must also pass the MAC exam. Students are encouraged to apply for the M.A. degree as soon as they have satisfied the relevant requirements.

## **SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM**

- FIRST YEAR** Complete 200A–C and six other courses, with an eye to satisfying the course requirements. File the History Distribution Petition, pass the Logic Fluency Requirement, take the Master’s Comprehensive Exam (the MAC Exam). File for the MA, when ready.
- SECOND YEAR** Complete the remaining five courses in such a way as to satisfy the course requirements. Begin teaching. File for the MA, when ready.
- THIRD YEAR** Write the proposition. Complete any remaining requirements. Begin research for the Oral Qualifying Exam.
- FOURTH YEAR** Pass the Oral Qualifying Exam and Advance to Candidacy, earning the C.Phil. degree. Begin work on the Dissertation.
- FIFTH YEAR** Continue writing the Dissertation. In preparation for the job market, complete a draft of the dissertation.
- SIXTH YEAR** Engage the job market. Complete the Dissertation.

## TYPICAL ENROLLMENT THROUGH THE PHILOSOPHY PhD

Students are always to enroll in twelve units each quarter. Doing so is extremely important for the financing of the department. Each course is four units.

### FIRST YEAR ENROLLMENT

Fall      Philos 200A: First Year Seminar  
            Course  
            Course

Winter    Philos 200B: First Year Seminar  
            Philos 135  
            Course

Spring    Philos 200C: First Year Seminar  
            Course (if needed, Philos 132: Logic, Second Course: see note below)  
            Course

**NOTES:** One history course/seminar and one logic course are to be taken in the first year. *Philos 132 requires doing the homework for Philos 31.* Talk to the instructor of that course. Other requirements to keep in mind: Ethics Graduate Course, M&E Graduate Course, Special Area Seminar, second History course/seminar, History Distribution Requirement.

### SECOND YEAR ENROLLMENT

Fall      Philos 495: Teaching College Philosophy  
            Philos 375: Teaching Apprentice Practicum  
            Course

Winter    Philos 375: Teaching Apprentice Practicum  
            Course  
            Course

Spring    Philos 375: Teaching Apprentice Practicum  
            Course  
            Course

**NOTE:** Absent special circumstances, all course requirements are to be fulfilled by the end of the second year.

