

IV. The Course-Based MA

The Department of Philosophy offers a course-based MA in Philosophy, which may be taken on either a part-time or a full-time basis. The Faculty and Department regulations pertaining to this program follow.

1. Objectives of the Program

The course-based MA program in Philosophy has been designed with two principal objectives in mind.

The first is to make advanced study in Philosophy accessible to students whose commitments may preclude full-time registration. The second is to provide an alternative to the thesis-based program for Master's studies in Philosophy that will constitute a comparable preparation for Doctoral work.

2. Program Requirements

There is no full-time study requirement. Either full-time or part-time study is possible. There is no thesis component but there is a research constituent (see (d) below).

3. Coursework Requirements

1. Five full-course equivalents (FCE) of graduate coursework, of which at least one FCE must be in the History of Philosophy and one FCE in Twentieth Century or Contemporary Philosophy.
2. In addition to completing five full-course equivalents of graduate coursework, students may be required to remedy background deficiencies in a certain area or areas of philosophy by taking course work below the 500 level. Coursework up to a maximum of one-full course equivalent will be permitted for such purposes while the student is registered in the course-based MA program.
3. Advanced credit may be given for relevant courses at the graduate level that have not previously been used towards fulfilling any degree, diploma or other certification requirements, up to a maximum of three half-course equivalents.
4. Students must complete at least one half-course in each annual registration period, and complete half the required course work in the first three years of registration. Students are advised to withdraw from the program for any protracted period in which no course work is to be taken.
5. Students shall maintain a minimum cumulative B average (3.00 GPA), as calculated at the end of any registration year, beginning at the completion of two FCEs. Students may

not have more than two B grades in half-courses on their total course record. Students must select a supervisor, by mutual agreement, by the end of their second regular academic session after first registration (April for September registrants and December for January registrants) and well in advance of the student's determination of areas for the final examination. The supervisor shall be responsible for giving regular academic advice and guidance, and for general overview of the administrative aspects of the student's program.

6. Maximum time permitted for the program is six years from first registration.

4. Research Constituent

The course-based MA has a research constituent. This constituent is to be satisfied by passing all components, written and oral, of the Final Master's Examination.

5. Final Master's Examination

A final Master's examination of overall competency is required after completion of all course work, consisting of written and oral components. Effective July 1, 2009, the Department of Philosophy will be monitoring and overseeing this examination.

The following regulations apply:

- i. Each student in the program will be examined by a Final Master's Examination Committee appointed by the Department Head in consultation with the Graduate Program Director not later than three months prior to the Final Master's Examination. The committee shall consist of four members including a neutral chair. The normal composition shall be the student's supervisor and two other members of the academic staff.
- ii. The written component will examine the competency of the student in two fields or areas of philosophy, one of which must be in the History of Philosophy or Twentieth Century/Contemporary Philosophy, while the second may be elected by the student. A guideline for suitable areas of philosophy on which a student may choose to be examined is given by the generic titles of graduate course offerings in philosophy. There should not be any significant overlap in the two chosen areas. Competency in an area will be tested by examining the student's mastery of selected central problems, authors and/or positions in that area.
- iii. Students should determine their examination areas in consultation with their supervisor and must declare their chosen examination areas not later than six months before the time of examination by reporting these to the Department Graduate Program Director. The following regulations apply:

- a. Not later than two weeks after the examinations areas have been determined, the supervisor will draw up a bibliography for each of these areas. The bibliographies will be discussed with the student. A copy of the bibliographies, with the signatures of the supervisor and student, shall be submitted to the Graduate Program Director not later than five months prior to the written exam.
 - b. Examination questions for the written and oral components of the Final Master's Examination will be drawn from the bibliographies for each of the examination areas.
- iv. Details of the written component
- a. The supervisor shall distribute examination questions for the written component to all members of the examination committee for their approval, and the Graduate Program Director, at least a week in advance of the written exam.
 - b. The written component shall consist of two three-hour written examinations. The written examinations are to be completed within one week.
 - c. Each Examiner is required to submit a written assessment of the student's written examination performance, to be submitted to the neutral chair of the examination committee prior to the examination.
 - d. The written component of the examination must be judged to be either acceptable (Pass) or unacceptable (Fail).
 - e. The committee will inform the student and the Graduate Program Director within three weeks of the exam submission whether the student has passed. If the student has not passed the exam, the committee will provide the student and the Graduate Program Director with written comments of its decision. (The student may request a written assessment even in the case of a Pass.) If the committee does not make a decision within three weeks of the exam's submission, then it is the responsibility of the Graduate Program Director to ensure that the exam is assessed in a timely manner.
 - f. This is a closed exam.
- v. The student shall not be permitted to proceed to the oral component if the student does not secure a Pass on the written component.
- vi. The oral examination will be held within two weeks and not later than three weeks following a decision on the written component. Questions for the oral examination will be based on the bibliographies for the areas selected for examination.
- vii. Details of the oral component
- a. The oral examination is a formal examination, not an informal discussion with the student.
 - b. All examiners must be given an opportunity to question the student early in the examination, e.g., by rounds of questioning.

- c. The oral examination shall not exceed two hours. This does not include deliberation time of the committee.
 - d. The oral component of the examination must be judged to be either acceptable (Pass) or unacceptable (Fail).
 - e. This is a closed exam.
- viii. The Result of the Final Master's Examination shall be either Pass or Fail. To secure a Pass, the student must obtain a Pass on both the written component and the oral component of the exam. In the event of a failure, the examining committee may recommend that the student be given an opportunity to take the failed component of the examination again between two and six months from the date of the first attempt. No more than two attempts shall be permitted.
- ix. Students may appeal the grade that they obtain on either the written component or the oral component of the Final Master's Examination. In the event of an appeal, the student shall first address a letter of appeal to the Graduate Program Director. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The Graduate Program Director will then report his or her decision to the student. If the student is not satisfied with this decision, the student may file an appeal in accordance with the terms and conditions specified by the Teaching Faculty Appeals Committee.

6. Graduation (Exit) Requirements

Provided students have satisfied all other FGS requirements for graduation, students shall be deemed eligible to graduate upon receipt by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of:

- a. Evidence of satisfactory completion of the minimum number of courses at the required level and with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.
- b. A Departmental clearance indicating all approved Department requirements have been met.
- c. A letter from the supervisor summarizing the student's overall program performance.
- d. Successful completion of the Final Master's Examination.

7. Transferability Between MA Programs and Between MA and PhD Programs in Philosophy

Students entering the MA program on either the thesis or the course-based route may be allowed to transfer from one route to the other provided that there is evidence of satisfactory progress in program.

Students who transfer from the MA course-based program to the MA thesis-based program must complete all degree requirements within four years of their first registration in program.

Students enrolled in a course-based or thesis-based MA program may be allowed to transfer into the PhD program provided that there is evidence of satisfactory progress in program. Transfers from Master's to Doctoral programs must be completed within twenty-four months of the student's initial registration in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. All transfer students must attempt the PhD candidacy examination within thirty-six months of first registration in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.