GRADUATE STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

This searchable PDF file incorporates most of the pages on the graduate study website into a single document. Information about placement and current dissertations is not included in this document but is available on those pages.

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I. HOW TO APPLY

A. General Information

Successful applicants to graduate studies in Philosophy are admitted for the fall term, which begins in August.

- Applications must be postmarked no later than January 2.

Applicants should have a good background in philosophy. However, an undergraduate philosophy major is not a prerequisite.

To apply, students must complete and submit an electronic application and arrange for the documents listed below to be sent to:

   Graduate Coordinator
   Philosophy Department
   100 N. University Street
   West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098

The documents required for complete application are:

1. three letters of recommendation;
2. transcripts of all prior university-level studies;
3. GRE scores (international applicants who are not native English speakers must also submit TOEFL scores);
4. statement of purpose;
5. a sample of written work in philosophy.

Non-degree students may be admitted for either the fall or spring term. Such students need submit only an electronic application and either official transcripts or copies of official transcripts, but they should contact Director of Graduate Admissions before applying.

B. Domestic Requirements

Applicants are expected to have done good work in philosophy at the undergraduate level. They should have completed work equivalent to that required by the Purdue Philosophy Department of its majors, including a good background in the history of philosophy and at least one course in symbolic logic. They also should have a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language. Qualified applicants lacking some of these prerequisites may be admitted with the requirement that they take enough additional work during their first and second semesters in residence to fulfill these prerequisites.

Master's Degree Program
- Undergraduate Cumulative Grade Point Average: 3.4 or equivalent required;
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Required -- no minimum score set.
Doctoral Degree Program

- Undergraduate Cumulative Grade Point Average: 3.4 or equivalent required.
- Master's Degree Completion: Not required.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Required -- no minimum score set.

C. International Requirements

Students applying from outside of the United States must meet the same requirements as domestic students (stated above), and they must also meet the following additional requirement:

- Submit valid scores for one of the following three tests for English proficiency: the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic. To be valid for admission, English proficiency test scores must be received by Purdue directly from the testing organization and must be no more than two years old at the time the recommendation for admission is received at the Graduate School (normally about two months after the January 2nd admission deadline). The minimum scores required for admission are an overall score of 100 on the TOEFL iBT, an overall band score of 7.5 on the IELTS, or an overall score of 68 on the PTE Academic.

This requirement applies to both applications to the M.A. program and applications to the Ph.D. program.

Links of Interest for International Students
International Students and Scholars Office
International Programs Office
Student Organizations
Life at Purdue

D. Electronic Application (follow this link to the Graduate School’s application page).

E. Financial Aid

A limited number of teaching assistantships are available for incoming Ph.D. students; an assistantship currently begins at an annual salary of $13,200 plus remission of tuition. Fellowships, currently beginning at about $15,750 plus remission of tuition, are awarded on a competitive basis to exceptional incoming graduate students throughout the University. More advanced students are eligible to compete for fellowships for doctoral research. If a student is admitted with financial aid and continues to make good progress through the program, the department will make every effort to ensure financial support for five years of graduate study.

More information about funding can be obtained from the Graduate School of Purdue University.
F. Related Programs

In addition to the regular graduate program in philosophy, the department also participates in two interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs:

- Philosophy and Literature (in conjunction with the Department of English), and
- Philosophy and Communication (in conjunction with the Department of Communication).

G. Contact

More detailed information about these programs and the admissions process of each can be obtained by writing to the appropriate graduate director:

- Ph.D. Program in Philosophy  
  Martin Curd (curd@purdue.edu)
- Ph.D. Program in Philosophy and Literature  
  JoAnn Miller (jlmiller@purdue.edu)
- Ph.D. Program Philosophy and Communication  
  Melanie Morgan (morgan3@purdue.edu)

II. PH.D. PROGRAM

The Ph.D. program comprises two stages:

First Stage: During their first two years, students fulfill requirements in four areas:
   i. metaphysics and epistemology;
   ii. history of philosophy;
   iii. ethics, social and political philosophy, and aesthetics;
   iv. logic, language, and science.

Students must also fulfill a language requirement, usually in Ancient Greek, French, German, or Latin.

Second Stage: At the beginning of the third year of graduate studies, students prepare and defend a dissertation prospectus. If the prospectus defense has been successful, students begin working on their dissertation. They are encouraged to complete their dissertation by the end of their fifth year at Purdue.

A. Selecting an Advisory Committee and Developing an Area Requirements Plan

The First Meeting with the Director of Graduate Studies

Upon entering the graduate program, each student must communicate with the Director of Graduate Studies, who will assist him or her in planning the first semester of work.
Selecting and Meeting with the Advisory Committee
At the beginning of the second semester, each student must, in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, first select and then meet with an Advisory Committee, consisting of three faculty members who match the student’s individual needs and interests. This committee will aid the student by suggesting courses and areas of study which will foster his or her interests and remedy any deficiencies in his or her background, and it will guide the student’s work until his or her admission to Ph.D. candidacy. Students may, with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, make changes to their Advisory Committee.

Developing an Area Requirements Plan
In consultation with the Advisory Committee, first year students must develop a plan on how to meet the area requirements. This plan must be submitted before the Graduate Committee holds its annual review of progress in late February; thus first year students should request a meeting of his or her Advisory Committee during January or February. To reflect any changes in their interests, students may from time to time, in consultation with their Advisory Committee, modify the Area Requirements Plan.

As soon as possible after the Advisory Committee has approved a student’s tentative Area Requirements Plan, the student should give the Director of Graduate Studies a copy of it. The Director will review the plan to make sure that it is consistent with the formal guidelines and general expectations of the department. If questions arise, the Director might consult with the Advisory Committee about possible changes. Any subsequent changes to the plan should be similarly submitted and reviewed as promptly as possible.

During January or February of the second year of graduate studies, each student will again meet with the Advisory Committee to review the student’s course grades and written work. In order to evaluate the student’s progress during his or her first year and first semester of the second year, the Advisory Committee may consult with other faculty members who have worked closely with the student.

B. The Policy for Grading Graduate Students

Faculty members who teach any course in which graduate students are registered must, at the end of the semester, submit to the graduate secretary a departmental evaluation form for each philosophy graduate student in the course. On this form, the faculty member should state the student’s grade for the course and supply a short statement describing the student’s performance. The evaluation forms are available from the departmental graduate secretary.

The graduate secretary will file these evaluation forms, for use by the Advisory Committee and the Graduate Committee in its annual progress review. Apart from this use, the grades and comments are to remain confidential. Graduate students are entitled to access their grade reports.

Occasionally, a student may wish to audit a course, rather than taking it for credit and a grade. In such a case, the student must consult with the instructor to determine the course requirements for auditing students (attendance, class participation, etc.). If at the end of the course the student satisfies the requirements, the instructor must submit the evaluation form
mentioned above and enter 'Audit' in the space normally used to indicate the grade. Students may not list an audited courses on their CV unless the instructor of the course has submitted such a report.

C. The Area Requirements

Graduate students are required to demonstrate competence in each of the four traditional sub-disciplines of philosophy:

i. history of philosophy;
ii. metaphysics and epistemology;
iii. ethics, social and political philosophy, and aesthetics;
iv. logic, language, and science.

However, within these major areas, options are provided to allow the student to give particular attention to those problems that are of special interest to him or her.

Each area requirement can be satisfied in one of two ways:

(A) through an examination (the “examination option”)
(B) by taking a thematically appropriate series of courses (the “course option”).

When choosing the course option, the following rule applies:

**The Course Option Grade Rule**

When a student chooses the course option for any area requirement, the grade average of all courses in that area must be B+. A course with a grade lower than B- does not count towards satisfaction of the course option.

The student's Advisory Committee, in consultation with other appropriate faculty members and with the student, will decide whether a given area requirement is to be met by examination, the others are usually satisfied by courses but any and all may be satisfied by examination. All students must complete 12 courses.

The areas and their requirements are as follows:

**Area 1: History of Philosophy**

*Examination Option:* Pass a comprehensive examination covering two of the following three periods:

(i) Ancient and Medieval;
(ii) From the Renaissance to Kant;
(iii) From Kant to Early 20th Century.

*Course Option:* Take at least four approved courses covering at least two of the three periods stated above.
Area 2: Metaphysics and Epistemology

*Examination Option:* Pass a comprehensive examination in both metaphysics and epistemology.

*Course Option:* Take at least four approved courses in metaphysics and epistemology including at least two courses in each area.

Area 3: Ethics, Social and Political philosophy, and Aesthetics

*Examination Option:* Pass a comprehensive examination either solely in ethics or in a combination of ethics and some approved sub-area of value theory.

*Course Option:* Take at least three approved courses in ethics or value theory, at least one of which must be in ethics.

Area 4: Logic, Language and Science

*Examination Option:* Pass a comprehensive examination either solely in Logic or in a combination of Logic and one of the following:
(a) Induction and Philosophy of Science
(b) Philosophy of Logic and Language

*Course Option:* Take at least one approved course in logic, plus at least two additional courses from the following areas (they need not be from the same area):
(a) Deductive Systems;
(b) Induction, Probability, & Philosophy of Science;
(c) Philosophy of Logic and Language.

**The Examination Option: Guidelines and Further Details**

*Grades*
The grades for an area requirement examination are ‘pass’ and ‘fail’. The faculty members on the examination committee may note in writing or oral communication whether a pass was ‘high’ or ‘low.’
Preparation for an Area Examination
Students should prepare for an area requirement exam by studying a wide range of material, guided by examples of past exams and lists of recommended readings in each area. Both of these are available from the graduate secretary of the department. Since an area examination need not be limited to the readings on its list, students should view these readings merely as suggestions.

The Structure of an Area Examination
An area requirement examination consists of two components:
(a) a written "take-home" part worth 60% of the total grade, and
(b) an oral exam worth 40% of the total grade.

Both components are administered by the same committee.

Scheduling An Area Examination
Examination periods are in August and January, falling within the week prior to the beginning of Fall and Spring classes. Students intending to take an area examination in an upcoming examination period must notify the Director of Graduate Studies during the preceding semester. The Director will then convene a faculty committee to administer the examination.

Excusing Oneself from a Scheduled Examination
Students who have registered their intention to take an area examination in an upcoming period are expected to take the exam in that period. Requests to be excused from a scheduled examination must reach the Chair of the Graduate Committee no later than four weeks prior to the start of the examination period. Except in extraordinary circumstances, failure to take a scheduled examination without a proper excuse will count as failing the exam.

The Written Component
At the beginning of the exam period, students taking a particular exam will be given a list of questions and asked to write essays on a specific number (usually 3). These essays should typically be 1225-1750 words, with a maximum of 2500 words, each. The essays are due three days from the time the questions are made available. Questions will be designed and graded with the understanding that students are being tested for familiarity with, and ability to come to grips with, philosophical issues and problems.

The Oral Component
Except for unusual circumstances, the oral exam takes place during the first week of classes. Questions should focus on the topics of the essays, but may be broad enough to test the student's understanding of the context in which those topics and issues arise. Upon completion of the exam, the committee will file a written report, which will be given to the student. A copy of it will be placed in his or her file.

Failed Examinations
A student who fails an area requirement examination may repeat it, provided the student's work is otherwise of good quality. However, normally no student will be permitted to attempt passing an area requirement examination more than twice. An exception to this Two Attempts Only Rule may be granted when a student’s performance in satisfying the remaining area requirements has been exceptionally good. In such circumstances, the student's Advisory Committee may grant permission to choose the course option as an alternative to an
examination the student failed to pass. However, one area requirement must still be satisfied by examination.

**THE COURSE OPTION: GUIDELINES AND FURTHER DETAILS**

**Failure to Satisfy the Course Option**
The *Course Option Grade Rule*, introduced above, states:

> When a student chooses the course option for any area requirement, the grade average of all courses in that area must be B+. A course with a grade lower than B- does not count towards satisfaction of the course option.

Consequently, if in a course approved for satisfaction of an area requirement, a student receives a grade of C or lower, then that student’s Advisory Committee will review the student’s other work and make a recommendation to the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head as to whether the students should be allowed a second attempt to pass the area requirement in question, or whether the student should be asked to withdraw from the program. If the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head decide to grant the student a second attempt to satisfy the requirement, the student may be required either to take additional courses or to take a general examination in the area.

**No Double Dipping**
A course used to satisfy one area requirement will not count towards satisfying any other area requirement.

**Substitution Requests**
The Appendix to this document indicates which area requirements the department’s courses satisfy. If a student wishes to have a course counted towards satisfaction of an area requirement other than the one indicated in the Appendix, the following rules apply:

(a) The student must submit a substitution proposal to his or her Advisory Committee for approval.

(b) The student should consult with the instructor in charge of the course before the beginning of the semester. The instructor, at his or her discretion, may tailor course requirements to better match the student’s work with the area requirement being fulfilled.

(c) In problematic cases, the student’s Advisory Committee should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies. The authority to approve or deny a substitution request lies with the Graduate Committee and ultimately with the Department Head.

**Directed Reading Courses**
Normally, at most one 590 (Directed Reading Course) will be counted towards the fulfillment of area requirements (one total, not one per area). Exceptions may be made if a course needed to fulfill a requirement is not available.

**Logic Course Requirement for the Logic, Language, and Science Area**
It is expected that students will have taken the approved course in logic for this area requirement, which is normally PHIL 450, 550, or 650, by the end of their second year, unless they plan to satisfy the Logic, Language, and Science requirement by examination.
D. The Foreign Language Requirement

Before a student may advance to Ph.D. candidacy, reading competence in one foreign language is required. This language must be German, Ancient Greek, French, or Latin unless the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head recommend that some other language be substituted. This requirement must be satisfied either by means of a written translation examination administered by the Department of Philosophy or by passing (with a grade of B or better) the appropriate 605 course in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. (Additional languages may be required by the nature of the student's Ph.D. research; this shall be determined by the student's dissertation committee.) A student sitting for the translation examination will be allowed the use of a lexicon and a dictionary. The exam time will be 90 minutes. The examiner(s) will be appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies from among the faculty of the Philosophy Department.

E. The Residency Requirement

The total number of hours of academic credit used to satisfy residency requirements consists of all course credit hours that appear on the plan of study, other graduate course credit hours with grades of C or better that appear on the Purdue transcript, and research hours that appear on the Purdue transcript.

1. At least one-third of the total credit hours used to satisfy the degree requirements must be earned (while registered for doctoral study) in continuous residence on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted.
2. At least 90 credit hours are required.
3. A master's degree from any accredited university may contribute 30 credit hours toward satisfying this residency requirement.

In fulfilling these requirements, a maximum of 18 credit hours will be allowed from any one semester.

F. Progress Through the Ph.D. Program

Timetable for Completing the Area Requirements

During the first stage of the program, students will normally take three or four classes a semester, until all the course work for their area requirements is completed. Students are encouraged to complete at least one of their area requirements by the end of their first year and required to complete:

- (a) at least two area requirements by the end of their second year;
- (b) all area requirements by the end of their third year.

In case of extenuating circumstances, students may petition the Graduate Committee to be excused from one or more of these requirements.

Reviews

There are important reviews of each graduate student in February of each year (see http://www.cla.purdue.edu/philosophy/graduate/annualreview.html). Positive reviews each year are required to remain in good standing in the program. A comprehensive review takes place in the fall of the fourth year of study, and a positive review at this stage is required to continue on to the Ph.D. Students whose fall fourth year review is negative may be asked to leave the Ph.D. program with an M.A.
Choosing a Dissertation Topic and Selecting a Committee
Students should choose a dissertation topic, form a committee, and start working on their dissertation during their third year. It is expected that students defend their prospectus by the end of the third year or early in their fourth. To remain in good standing, students must successfully defend the prospectus by the end of their fourth year. Ideally, students should complete the dissertation within two years, i.e., by the end of their fifth year.

Registering for Research Credits
Students who have begun working on their dissertation must register for the minimum number of research credits (3) every semester until the degree is granted. Failure to do so may require students to reapply for admission to the program before their degree can be granted. Also, any student holding a Purdue-funded fellowship, teaching assistantship, or research assistantship must be registered as a full-time student (that is for more than 7 credit hours).

The Five Year Rule
Students must complete all requirements for the Ph.D., including the dissertation and the final public oral exam, by the end of the semester that falls in the fifth calendar year after the semester of a successful prospectus defense. (For example, a student who successfully defends a prospectus in September 2010 must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. by December 2015.)

Finishing the Dissertation and Getting Ready for the Job Market
Students are encouraged to complete their dissertations during the first part of the year in which they plan to enter the job market, as the application and interviewing process for jobs is time consuming.

G. The Plan of Study
In their second year of study, graduate students must file with the Graduate School a formal Plan of Study, which guides academic progress and serves as an academic contract between the student, the advisory committee, and the Graduate School. A Plan of Study can be modified after it is originally filed. All departmental and Graduate School policies related to filing or modifying a Plan of Study must be followed.

Students should file their plan of study electronically. Access to the electronic Plan of Study Generator (POSG) is via the MyPurdue portal. MyPurdue can be found at http://www.mypurdue.purdue.edu. The link for the Plan of Study Generator (POSG) is located under the Academic link. The Graduate School provides access to the POSG.

Instructions for Electronically Filing the Plan of Study
- Once you are in the Academic tab, click on the POSG link. A new browser window will open with the Graduate School links available to you.
- To begin filing your plan of study, click on the Plan of Study Generator link, and then click on the Create New Plan of Study link. Once in the POSG, refer to the Help buttons located on each page to assist you in using the electronic POSG.
• You do not need to complete the entire form in one sitting; you may save your plan of study and return to it later.
• You may not bookmark any pages within the Graduate School link. To return to the POSG, you must login to MyPurdue.

**Instructions for Receiving Approval for the Plan of Study**
• When you have completed your plan of study and feel it is ready for review of your advisory committee, submit your plan as a Draft.
• All plans of study must first be submitted as a Draft before you can submit your plan as a Final. While your plan is in Draft status, review it with your advisory committee and the Director of Graduate Studies to ensure that it satisfies department and Graduate School policies.
• Use your draft as a basis to discuss your academic and research goals with your advisory committee members.
• Once your committee has accepted your plan of study, return to the POSG and submit your plan as "Final." The plan of study form will be electronically routed, reviewed and, if approved, signed by your departmental coordinator, your advisory committee, the head of your graduate program, and the Graduate School. You may check the status of your plan at any time by returning to the POSG and clicking on the Display Submitted Plan of Study link.
• Once the Graduate School has approved your plan of study, you should check it every semester to monitor your academic degree progress.

For help with the Plan of Study, some useful links can be found at the Graduate School Policy and Procedures Manual (refer to section VII).

**H. The Annual Review**

**The Evaluation Meeting**
Every year, typically in February, the Graduate Committee meets to evaluate the progress of all graduate students. At this meeting, the Committee will evaluate the graduate students independently of considerations of financial aid. At a later meeting, financial aid will be allocated on the basis of the Committee’s evaluations.

**Graduate Student Meetings with the Director of Graduate Studies**
Early in the spring semester the Director of Graduate Studies informs the graduate students of the date for the Evaluation Meeting. Prior to the Evaluation Meeting, each graduate student needs to schedule a meeting with the Director of Graduate Studies to review the student’s progress through the program thus far. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that the Graduate Committee has full, accurate, and up-to-date information about his or her progress.

**Evaluation Basis and Criteria**
The Graduate Committee will normally base a graduate student’s evaluation on the following criteria:

- grades;
- reports from mentors, the student’s Advisory or Dissertation Committee, and faculty whose courses that student has taken;
rate of progress in the program.
The order in which these factors are listed does not reflect relative importance.

Evaluation Decisions
On the basis of these factors, and other considerations that may be relevant in special cases, the Graduate Committee will decide whether
- the student’s overall performance is satisfactory or unsatisfactory;
- the student’s record suggests any areas of weakness in need of correction.
For a graduate student to remain in good standing, it is necessary that the student’s performance is judged satisfactory. The Director of Graduate Studies will let each student know, within one week of the meeting, which evaluation the student has received.

Persistent Unsatisfactory Performance
If the Graduate Committee evaluates a pre-dissertation stage student’s performance as unsatisfactory and questions whether that student should be allowed to continue, then the student’s case will be decided in a meeting of the department’s faculty. At this meeting,
- the student is entitled to appear in person to discuss his or her work and present additional evidence, and
- a graduate representative with full voting power, to be selected by the graduate students of the department, will be present.
After the student’s work and performance have been reviewed, a decision will be made
- either to allow the student to continue in the program, or
- to ask the student to leave the program, or
- to discuss the student’s case again after the student has taken a special examination or produced additional work.
After the meeting, the Director of Graduate Studies will let the student know what decision was made.

Late Stage Non-Performance
In rare cases, graduate students have advanced to candidacy but fail, by the 5th calendar year after the prospectus defense, to complete their dissertation or to schedule their final oral examination. In such cases, the Department Head will, after consulting with the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Committee, decide whether the student should be terminated from the program or given a grace year to complete all requirements. (See Section E, Progress Through the Ph.D. Program, above.)

I. The Prospectus Defense and the Dissertation Requirement

The Dissertation Director and Committee
Upon completing the area requirements and the language requirement, a student must, in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, choose a Director for his or her dissertation, and select a dissertation committee composed of three faculty members. (The Director is also the chair of the dissertation committee.)

The Prospectus Defense
The student should compose a dissertation prospectus and submit it to the committee. When the members of this committee have read the prospectus and discussed it with the student, the
Dissertation Director will schedule a defense of the prospectus, in order to determine whether the student's background is sufficient for dealing with the topic. After successfully defending the prospectus, the student advances to Ph.D. candidacy.

The Dissertation

The student will write the dissertation under the direction of his or her Dissertation Director. It is not required that the dissertation consist of a lengthy treatment of a single topic. A small collection of original research papers on a variety of topics, related or disparate, is permissible, provided the work on each is of dissertation quality. The dissertation must not exceed 350 pages.

The Dissertation Defense

When the work is completed and judged by the student and the committee to be an original and significant contribution to philosophy, the student will stand for a final oral defense of the dissertation before his or her committee, a 'fourth reader' appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies, and other interested or invited persons. The defense cannot be scheduled until all members of the committee and the fourth reader have received copies of the final version of the dissertation and have had sufficient time to read it carefully.

J. The Policy for Mentoring and Evaluating Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistantships

These fall into three different categories:

(i) **Graders** who assist professors by grading assignments and exams. Typically, the following classes employ graders:

   - 260 Philosophy and Law;
   - 280 Ethics and Animals;
   - 290 Environmental Ethics;
   - 330 Religions of the East;
   - 331 Religions of the West.

(ii) Graduate students who are **Teaching Assistants** grading for large courses and leading multiple recitation sections. These large classes typically involve recitations:

   - 110 Introduction to Philosophy;
   - 111 Ethics;
   - 206 Philosophy of Religion;
   - 270 Biomedical Ethics;

(iii) Graduate students who are **Instructors** of individual sections of some of our introductory courses. These courses typically include single or multiple sections of:

   - 110 Introduction to Philosophy;
   - 111 Introduction to Ethics;
   - 120 Critical Thinking;
   - 150 Principles of Logic.

   Occasionally, graduate student Instructors teach other courses as well, e.g. 225, Philosophy of Woman.

Thus, while all graduate students with teaching assignments (except for research assistants) are TAs in the generic sense of the term, there are three kinds of TAs: Graders, Teaching Assistants,
and Instructors. The abbreviation ‘TA’ is used for the generic sense of ‘teaching assistant’, whereas ‘Teaching Assistant’ refers to TAs in category (ii).

**Evaluation of TA Performance**

The evaluating of TAs serves the following purposes:

- to help graduate students to improve their performance as graders and teachers;
- to ensure that the undergraduates taught by Philosophy TAs receive high quality instruction in their courses;
- to assist the Graduate Committee in assessing TA performance, which is an important criterion for assigning teaching assistantships to the department’s graduate students;
- to gather evidence about a graduate student’s teaching abilities and overall performance as a TA, which will become part of the student’s dossier once he or she applies for jobs.

Faculty members who have TAs in categories (i) and (ii) are expected to evaluate their TAs at the end of the semester. TAs in category (iii) will be evaluated by their assigned mentors. This evaluation—which for TAs in category (ii) and (iii) should involve classroom observation—consists of two parts:

(a) a brief written report for the TA’s file, to be submitted to the graduate secretary as an e-mail attachment;
(b) a meeting with the TA to provide the TA with helpful feedback on and discussion of his or her performance and student evaluations.

Again, the written evaluation is intended to be useful (i) to the student in improving her or his teaching, (ii) to the department in assessing performance and making future assignments, and (iii), in some form, to potential employers in the future. A TA’s departmental teaching letter, prepared when he or she goes on the job market, will include the text of these written mentor evaluations, with some appropriate redactions. TA’s have access to, and are encouraged to review, their evaluations

**TA Mentoring and Mentee Responsibilities**

Graduate student Instructors must, for each semester, have a mentor. Mentors are expected to supervise a TA’s teaching and help him or her grow as a teacher. More specifically, the mentor’s role involves:

i. Assisting the graduate student Instructor in choosing a textbook.

   **Mentee Responsibility:** Since text books must be ordered by the beginning of student registration towards the end of the preceding semester, the timing of this is important. Graduate student Instructors must, within ten days of receiving their appointment letter, contact their mentors to discuss the choice of a suitable textbook.

ii. Helping the graduate student Instructor in constructing an appropriate syllabus.

   **Mentee Responsibility:** Graduate student Instructors must present to their mentors a draft of the syllabus at least four weeks before the beginning of the semester.

iii. Assisting the Instructor in developing appropriate grading standards.

   **Mentee Responsibility:** Graduate students must prepare an outline of their grading standards and present them to their mentors together with the syllabus.

iv. Mentor-mentee meetings throughout the semester, scheduled as needed, to discuss problems the student might encounter in teaching his or her course.
**Mentee Responsibility:** Graduate students must schedule a monthly meeting with their mentor, or more frequent meetings if needed.

v. Arranging for a classroom visit to observe the student’s teaching.

**Mentee Responsibility:** Reminding the mentor to schedule a classroom visit.

vi. Submitting a brief written report about the student’s performance as an instructor.

vii. If needed, meeting with the student at the end of the semester to discuss his or her performance and student evaluations.

Steps (i) and (ii) involve consulting the departmental document *Common Contents and Text Requirements*, which will be provided to both the mentor and the mentee by the Department Head.

### III. The M.A. PROGRAM

The M.A. degree may be awarded under either of two options. The thesis option requires 24 hours of approved course work, plus a thesis. The non-thesis option requires 33 hours of approved course work. M.A. students are expected to form an advisory committee, and to work with the committee to develop a balanced program. If the thesis option is chosen, the thesis is normally expected to be approximately 60-90 pages -- equivalent to three term papers. The department does not award teaching assistantships to students in the M.A. program.

A student wishing to obtain the M.A. degree in philosophy may be allowed to use up to three courses (9 credit hours) of coursework at a comparable institution to count towards the M.A. degree at Purdue. Any such use of transfer credit must be approved by the Graduate Committee before the Master's Plan of Study form will be sent to the Graduate School.

### The Residency Requirements for the M.A. Degree

The total number of hours of academic credit used to satisfy residency requirements consists of all course credit hours that appear on the plan of study, other graduate course credit hours with grades of C or better that appear on the Purdue transcript, and research hours that appear on the Purdue transcript. At least one-half of the total credit hours used to satisfy degree requirements must be earned in residence on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted. Course credits obtained via televised instruction from a campus shall be considered to have been obtained in residence on that campus.

At least 30 total credit hours are required.
APPENDIX: COURSES SATISFYING AREA REQUIREMENTS

The following list indicates the area requirements that each course is normally used to satisfy; where two area requirements are listed, the student may choose which area he or she wishes the course to count towards. If a student wishes to use a course for an area not mentioned on this list, special arrangements, as described under “The Course Option: Guidelines and Further Details” above, must be made.

450: Metalogic (Logic)
501: Studies in Greek Philosophy (History)
502: Studies in Medieval Philosophy (History)
503: Studies in Early Modern Philosophy (History)
505: Islamic and Jewish Philosophy and the Classical Tradition (History)
506: Advanced Philosophy of Religion (Metaphysics and Epistemology)
507: Recent American Philosophy (History; Metaphysics and Epistemology)
510: Phenomenology (History; Metaphysics & Epistemology)
514: 20th Century Analytic Philosophy I (History; Metaphysics & Epistemology; Philosophy of Language)
515: 20th Century Analytic Philosophy II (History; Metaphysics & Epistemology; Logic, Language & Science)
520: Existentialism (History; Value Theory)
524: Contemporary Ethical Theory (Ethics)
525: Studies in Metaphysics (Metaphysics)
530: Deconstructionist and Postmodernist Philosophy (Value Theory)
532: Studies in Theory of Knowledge (Epistemology)
535: Studies in Philosophy of Mind (Metaphysics)
540: Studies in Social and Political Philosophy (Value Theory)
542: Rationality and Relativism: African American Perspectives (Variable: consult advisory committee)
545: Recent Analytic Philosophy (Variable: consult advisory committee)
550: Advanced Symbolic Logic (Logic)
551: Philosophy of the Natural Sciences (Philosophy of Science; Epistemology)
552: Philosophy of the Social Sciences (Philosophy of Science)
555: Critical Theory (Variable: consult advisory committee)
557: Medieval Political Thought and Philosophy (History; Value Theory)
560: Studies in Eastern Philosophy (Variable: consult advisory committee)
575: Problems in Aesthetics (Value Theory)
576: Philosophy and Literature (Value Theory)
601: Special Topics in Ancient Philosophy (History)
610: Recent Continental Philosophy (Variable: consult advisory committee)
624: Seminar in Ethics (Ethics)
650: Advanced Topics in Logic (Logic)
665: Philosophy of Language (Philosophy of Language)
672: Philosophy of Logic (Philosophy of Logic)
683: Studies in Continental Rationalism (History)
684: Studies in British Empiricism (History)
685: The Philosophy of Kant (History)