Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy

The philosophy department at the University of Kansas comprises of 13 faculty members and about 35 graduate students. The department has traditionally fostered teaching and research that reflects a number of different philosophical orientations and fields of philosophy. Courses are taught on a broad range of topics. Master's theses and dissertations have had a similarly wide range of themes. The department's chief strengths are in history of philosophy (ancient, modern, 19th century), ethics, social-political philosophy, and analytic philosophy, including philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, and metaphysics. The department is in Wescoe Hall, the main humanities building.

The Ph.D. degree requires 39 hours of graduate course work, including a first-year graduate tutorial and a research tutorial. Ph.D. candidates also must satisfy the University's Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship requirement, pass both a departmental examination over the research tutorial and an oral comprehensive examination, and write and successfully defend a dissertation. The M.A./J.D. degree combines into 3 years and 1 summer session the programs for both degrees.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog. Please consult the Departments & Programs section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Admission to the Ph.D. in Philosophy

Apply to the graduate program via the Office of Graduate Studies online application system (http://www.graduate.ku.edu).

In addition to the general admission requirements (http://www.graduate.ku.edu/application-process) from the Office of Graduate Studies, applicants are expected to have taken the following seven courses or their equivalents as preparation for graduate work:

1. symbolic logic
2. history of ancient philosophy
3. history of modern philosophy
4. history of 20th-century analytic philosophy (roughly from Frege to Quine)
5. history of 19th/20th-century Continental philosophy
6. value theory
7. metaphysics/epistemology (broadly construed to include philosophy of language and philosophy of mind).

Students may be admitted without some of these courses, but they are expected to make up the deficiencies early in their graduate careers and outside of the minimum hours required for degree.

For additional information, including relevant deadlines and a list of required supplemental documentation to be submitted with the online application, please visit the graduate page of the Philosophy (http://www.philosophy.ku.edu) website, or contact the department Graduate Program Coordinator, Carl Ann Kreienhop, ckreienhop@ku.edu.

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

A student preparing for a doctorate in philosophy must meet general requirements and, before officially enrolling in PHIL 999 Dissertation, must satisfy these special requirements:

1. Complete PHIL 800 Tutorial with a grade of B- or higher in the first year of enrollment.
2. **Formal Philosophy Requirement:** Complete PHIL 610 Symbolic Logic or PHIL 666 Rational Choice Theory with a grade of B- or higher.
3. **Ph.D. Course Distribution Requirement:**
   - **Metaphysics and Epistemology (6)**
     Select two of the following:
     - PHIL 620 Philosophy of Natural Science
     - PHIL 622 Philosophy of Social Science
     - PHIL 628 Philosophy of Logic
     - PHIL 630 Philosophy of Mathematics
     - PHIL 638 Philosophy of Language
     - PHIL 648 Theory of Knowledge
     - PHIL 650 Metaphysics
     - PHIL 654 Philosophy of Mind
     - PHIL 850 Topics in Recent Philosophy: _____
     - PHIL 860 Topics in Philosophy of Science: _____
     - PHIL 862 Topics in Logic: _____
     - PHIL 868 Topics in Philosophy of Language: _____
     - PHIL 870 Topics in Metaphysics: _____
     - PHIL 872 Topics in Theory of Knowledge: _____
     - PHIL 877 Topics in Philosophy of Mind: _____
     - PHIL 888 Topics in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences: _____
   - **Value Theory (6)**
     Select two of the following:
     - PHIL 504 Philosophy of Sex and Love
     - PHIL 555 Justice and Economic Systems
     - PHIL 662 Aesthetics
     - PHIL 668 Political Philosophy
     - PHIL 670 Contemporary Ethical Theory
     - PHIL 671 Feminist Theories in Ethics
     - PHIL 672 History of Ethics
     - PHIL 674 Philosophy of Law
     - PHIL 676 Medical Ethics: Life and Death Issues

The University of Kansas
1

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The University of Kansas
1
PHIL 677  Medical Ethics: Professional Responsibilities
PHIL 850  Topics in Recent Philosophy: ______
PHIL 880  Topics in Ethics: ______
PHIL 884  Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: ______
PHIL 885  Topics in Law and Philosophy
PHIL 886  Topics in Applied Ethics: ______

**Ancient Philosophy (3)**
Select one of the following: 3
PHIL 508  Early Greek Philosophy
PHIL 605  The Philosophy of Plato
PHIL 607  The Philosophy of Aristotle
PHIL 608  Hellenistic Philosophy
PHIL 805  Plato
PHIL 807  Aristotle
PHIL 820  Topics in the History of Philosophy: ______

**Modern Philosophy (3)**
Select one of the following: 3
PHIL 820  Topics in the History of Philosophy: ______
PHIL 824  Hume
PHIL 828  Kant

**Nineteenth- and 20th-Century Philosophy (3)**
Select one of the following: 3
PHIL 560  Nineteenth Century Philosophy
PHIL 562  Kierkegaard
PHIL 570  Nietzsche
PHIL 580  Marxism
PHIL 582  Existentialism
PHIL 590  Phenomenology
PHIL 592  Contemporary Continental Philosophy
PHIL 820  Topics in the History of Philosophy: ______
PHIL 831  Hegel
PHIL 835  Frege
PHIL 843  Heidegger
PHIL 848  Wittgenstein
PHIL 850  Topics in Recent Philosophy: ______
PHIL 852  Quine
PHIL 855  Davidson
PHIL 890  Topics in Continental Philosophy: ______ (Topic, instructor, and specific prerequisites to be announced in the Schedule of Classes.)

4. **PHIL 901 Ph.D. Tutorial:** Students may not enroll in PHIL 901 before the third semester and normally should enroll in PHIL 901 no later than the sixth semester.

5. **Research Skills & Responsible Scholarship Requirement.** The University requires that every doctoral student have training in responsible scholarship and research skills pertinent to the field of research and appropriate to the doctoral level. This requirement must be met before taking the comprehensive oral exam. For Philosophy doctoral students, this requirement is met by the following:
   - PHIL 800
   - PHIL 901
   - Demonstrated competence in an approved foreign language, OR completion of a faculty-approved course in a discipline related to the student’s research interests.

6. **Pass the comprehensive oral examination** for Ph.D. candidacy. This examination must be taken after all of the above requirements have been completed, or in the semester in which the requirements will be completed.

   After the oral comprehensive examination has been passed, the student must write a dissertation of substantial merit showing the planning, conduct, and result of original research and must pass a final oral examination and defense of the dissertation.

**Reduction of Credits**
University graduate credit policy (http://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-credit) does not allow for a direct transfer of credits toward the Ph.D.; however, the department's requirement of 39 credit hours of acceptable graduate work for the Ph.D. may be reduced by departmental petition depending on the amount and quality of equivalent graduate work completed at another institution. At minimum, 24 hours of acceptable graduate work must be taken in the Department of Philosophy at KU.