Accelerated Master of Arts in Philosophy

The Accelerated M.A. provides excellent KU undergraduates in Philosophy an opportunity to complete the M.A. in Philosophy within a year of completing the bachelor’s degree. Talented students who are planning to continue their studies at the doctoral level or to continue to law school will receive a competitive advantage by acquiring a master’s degree in half the time traditionally required for a terminal M.A.

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 (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) 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 Requirements

1. All requirements for a bachelor’s in philosophy from KU complete or in progress
2. GPA of 3.5 in philosophy
3. GRE not required, though the department will consider GRE scores as part of an application

Application Deadlines

Students who receive a bachelor’s from KU in Spring or Summer must have a completed application with all supplemental documentation by August 1. Priority consideration is guaranteed for students whose applications are complete by April 30. Students who receive a bachelor’s in Fall must have a completed application by November 30.

Students who submit an application by January 15 may be considered for funding in the form of a graduate fellowship.

Interested students are encouraged to contact the department Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sarah Robins, skrobins@ku.edu, as early as possible during their undergraduate studies.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete all of the following requirements for the Accelerated M.A. within one calendar year post-bachelor’s:

1. 24 credit hours of graduate coursework (500-level or above) in philosophy post-bachelor’s with a grade of B or higher. At least 15 of these hours must be in courses numbered 800 or above. Students must complete two courses at the 500-level or above (or the equivalent) in each of these areas: history of philosophy, metaphysics and epistemology (broadly construed), and value theory. Courses taken during the undergraduate career may be counted toward these area requirements, but such work does not count toward the overall 24-hour graduate credit requirement unless the student took this course work for graduate credit and it has department approval.

2. PHIL 800 Tutorial with a grade of B or higher
3. An M.A. exam consisting in the oral defense of a seminar paper of the student’s choosing

Time Limits and Other Restrictions

Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the first semester of graduate study in order to maintain eligibility for the program. They will be subject to a formal mid-year review to ensure satisfactory progress towards completion of the degree.

A student who receives a bachelor’s degree in Spring or Summer begins the M.A. portion of the degree that Fall. The student must then complete all requirements for the Accelerated M.A. by the first day of classes the following Fall.

If a student does not complete the Accelerated M.A. requirements within one year post-bachelor’s, the student may petition the department for admission to the standard 30-hour M.A. track. In extraordinary circumstances, for example, serious illness, students may petition the department to remain in the 24-hour track.