

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO DEGREES IN PHILOSOPHY AT UCONN

CATALOG YEAR: 2022

BIG PICTURE

You might be EITHER:

- I. Coming to the PHIL PhD with a Bachelor's degree (no MA)...OR
- II. Coming to the PHIL PhD with a Master's degree in Philosophy...OR
- III. Enrolled only in the Master's degree in PHIL at UCONN (not the PhD).

I. If you are coming to the PHIL PhD with a Bachelor's degree (no MA)...

WHAT YOU NEED IN TOTAL: 60 CREDITS OF COURSES; PASS MASTERS EXAM; PASS PROPOSAL; PASS GENERAL EXAM; PASS DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS; PASS DISSERTATION AND ORAL DEFENSE

A. COURSES: 60 CREDITS

1. 30 CREDITS OF PHILOSOPHY GRAD COURSES (10 COURSES) TO EARN THE MA
2. 15 CREDITS OF PHILOSOPHY GRAD COURSES (5 COURSES) BEYOND THE MA
3. 15 CREDITS OF GRAD 6950 (for dissertation writing)

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC REQUIRED COURSES? YES

1. **PHIL 5301**
2. **PHIL 5307**
3. **One course in Ethics and Social Political Philosophy:** either PHIL 5302, or PHIL 5315, or PHIL 5350, or PHIL 5380. Substitutions can be made and require the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
4. **One course in Metaphysics and Epistemology:** either PHIL 5312, or PHIL 5330, or PHIL 5331, or PHIL 5340 or PHIL 5342. Substitutions can be made and require the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
5. **One course in History of Philosophy:** either PHIL 5320, or PHIL 5327. Substitutions can be made and require the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.

B. **'MASTERS EXAM' = 2 PAPERS ON ANY TOPIC IN PHILOSOPHY.** The primary function of the 'Masters Exam' is to determine whether students in our PhD program have completed work that merits an MA in Philosophy. **Tip:** consider choosing high quality papers you have written for seminars, which could (later) be submitted to satisfy the topic areas in the General Exam.

C. **PROPOSAL.** The primary function is to determine whether students in our PhD program can motivate and explain an idea or problem that could be fruitfully explored with further research. Proposals should:

1. Motivate and explain an idea or problem that it would be fruitful to develop with further research.
2. Demonstrate that the author is capable of conducting research.
3. Make some suggestions about how the author would explore the idea or problem.
4. Generate some questions or suggestions about what positive view or solution the author might offer about the idea/problem.

D. **'GENERAL EXAM' = 3 PAPERS. TOPICS ARE IN SPECIFIC AREAS:**

1. 1 PAPER in METAPHYSICS & EPISTEMOLOGY (broadly construed);
2. 1 PAPER in ETHICS/SOCIAL/POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (broadly construed);
3. 1 PAPER IN HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY (broadly construed).

Tip: 2 of these papers can be papers you submitted for the Masters Exam.

E. **DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS** = SNYOPSIS OF YOUR DISSERTATION THAT MOTIVATES A PROBLEM, INCLUDES A CHAPTER OUTLINE AND SUMMARY.

F. **DISSERTATION**

PLAN OF STUDY PhD (if you are coming in with a Bachelor's, no MA)

YEAR 1:

FALL TAKE 3 PHIL GRAD COURSES (9 CREDITS) including **PHIL 5301 and PHIL 5307**

SPRING TAKE 2 PHIL GRAD COURSES (6 CREDITS) **Tip:** TAKE A COURSE THAT MEETS 1 OF THE M&E or ESP or HIST REQUIREMENTS

Year 2: **Tip:** TAKE A COURSE THAT MEETS ANOTHER OF THE M&E OR ESP OR HIST REQUIREMENTS AND COURSES THAT WILL HELP YOU PRODUCE PAPERS FOR THE MASTERS EXAM

FALL TAKE 3 PHIL GRAD COURSES (9 CREDITS)

SPRING TAKE 2 PHIL GRAD COURSES (6 CREDITS)

SPRING SUBMIT '**MASTERS EXAM**' = **2 PAPERS AND PROPOSAL** (Usually April)

Year 3: **TIP:** TAKE A COURSE THAT MEETS ANOTHER OF THE M&E OR ESP OR HIST REQUIREMENTS AND COURSES THAT WILL HELP YOU PRODUCE PAPERS FOR THE GENERAL EXAM (M&E, HIST, ESP)

FALL TAKE 3 PHIL GRAD COURSES (9 CREDITS)

SPRING TAKE 2 PHIL GRAD COURSES (6 CREDITS)

SPRING SUBMIT '**GENERAL EXAM**' = **3 PAPERS AND PROPOSAL** (Usually April)

Year 4:

FALL ENROLL IN GRAD 6950 WRITE DISSERTATION (6 CREDITS)

SPRING ENROLL IN GRAD 6950 WRITE DISSERTATION (6 CREDITS)

Year 5:

FALL ENROLL IN GRAD 6950 WRITE DISSERTATION (6 CREDITS)

SPRING ENROLL IN GRAD 6950 WRITE DISSERTATION (6 CREDITS)

II. If you are coming to the PHIL PhD with a Master's Degree in Philosophy...

WHAT YOU NEED IN TOTAL: 45 CREDITS OF COURSES; PASS MASTERS EXAM; PASS PROPOSAL; PASS GENERAL EXAM; PASS DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS; PASS DISSERTATION AND ORAL DEFENSE

- Option 1: You can still follow the PLAN OF STUDY above! You can earn 60 credits. We encourage you to take advantage of being at UCONN! OR
- Option 2: You can follow that PLAN while taking fewer courses (you need a minimum of 45 credits).

A. COURSES: 45 CREDITS

1. 30 CREDITS OF PHILOSOPHY GRAD COURSES (10 COURSES) BEYOND THE MA
2. 15 CREDITS OF GRAD 6950 (for dissertation writing)

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC REQUIRED COURSES? YES

1. PHIL 5301
2. PHIL 5307
3. **One course in Ethics and Social Political Philosophy:** either PHIL 5302, or PHIL 5315, or PHIL 5350, or PHIL 5380. Substitutions can be made and require the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
4. **One course in Metaphysics and Epistemology:** either PHIL 5312, or PHIL 5330, or PHIL 5331, or PHIL 5340 or PHIL 5342. Substitutions can be made and require the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
5. **One course in History of Philosophy:** either PHIL 5320, or PHIL 5327. Substitutions can be made and require the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
- B. **'MASTERS EXAM' = 2 PAPERS ON ANY TOPIC IN PHILOSOPHY.** The primary function of the 'Masters Exam' is to determine whether students in our PhD program have completed work that merits an MA in Philosophy. **Tip:** consider choosing high quality papers you have written for seminars that could be submitted for the General Exam.
- C. **PROPOSAL.** The primary function is to determine whether students in our PhD program can motivate and explain an idea or problem that could be fruitfully explored with further research. Proposals should:
 1. Motivate and explain an idea or problem that it would be fruitful to develop with further research.
 2. Demonstrate that the author is capable of conducting research.
 3. Make some suggestions about how the author would explore the idea or problem.
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- D. **'GENERAL EXAM' = 3 PAPERS. TOPICS ARE IN SPECIFIC AREAS:**
 1. 1 PAPER in METAPHYSICS & EPISTEMOLOGY (broadly construed);
 2. 1 PAPER in ETHICS/SOCIAL/POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (broadly construed);
 3. 1 PAPER IN HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY (broadly construed).**Tip:** 2 of these papers can be papers you submitted for the Masters Exam.
- E. **DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS = SYNOPSIS OF YOUR DISSERTATION THAT MOTIVATES A PROBLEM, INCLUDES A CHAPTER OUTLINE AND SUMMARY.**
- F. **DISSERTATION**

FOR ALL PHD STUDENTS:

- A. The **maximum number of courses** that can be taken outside the department for credit toward the above 15 courses (45 credits) for students with a BA or 10 courses (30 credits) for students with an MA is **4 courses** (12 credits)—this allows students to get 1 certificate (in Logic, Cog Sci, WGSS, IREP).
- B. **FOR ALL REQUESTS TO COUNT NON-PHIL COURSES TOWARD ANY OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS FOR PHIL GRAD COURSES, CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES.**

III. **If you are enrolled only in the Master's degree in PHIL at UCONN (not the PhD).**

WHAT YOU NEED IN TOTAL: 30 CREDITS OF COURSES; PASS MASTERS EXAM

A. **COURSES: 30 CREDITS**

30 CREDITS OF PHILOSOPHY GRAD COURSES (10 COURSES) TO EARN THE MA

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC REQUIRED COURSES? YES: PHIL 5301 and PHIL 5307

- B. **'MASTERS EXAM' = 2 PAPERS** ON ANY TOPIC IN PHILOSOPHY. The primary function of the 'Masters Exam' is to determine whether students in our PhD program have completed work that merits an MA in Philosophy. **Tip:** consider choosing high quality papers you have written for seminars.

Follow the PLAN OF STUDY for Years 1 and 2, but you don't need to submit the Proposal.