PHILOSOPHY, MA

for the degree of Master of Arts in Philosophy

chair of the department: Kelly Ritter
overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply
overview of program admissions requirements:
program website: https://philosophy.illinois.edu/
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
program office: 200 Gregory Hall, 810 South Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801
phone: (217) 333-2889
email: phildept@illinois.edu

Graduate Degree Programs in Philosophy

Philosophy, MA (p. 1)
optional concentrations:
Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)
Philosophy, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/philosophy-phd/)
optional concentrations:
Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)

The normal program of graduate study in philosophy is directed toward the Ph.D. The M.A. degree is awarded after completing Stage One. Only under exceptional circumstances and without any commitment of financial aid, students may be allowed to seek only the Master of Arts degree. This happens only rarely. Students seeking solely an M.A. degree are encouraged to apply elsewhere.

Admission

The Graduate College admission requirements apply. Applicants should have had a course in symbolic logic and general courses in the history of ancient and early modern philosophy. Students deficient in these areas may be admitted, but they are required to remedy their deficiencies by taking such courses in their first year. Applicants should also have done some coursework in such central areas of philosophical inquiry as ethics and the theory of knowledge. All applications for admission must be supported by three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to comment on the applicant’s aptitude for graduate study in philosophy. They are further required to submit a sample of their written work in philosophy (10-20 pages).

International applicants whose native language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and submit their scores; a score of at least 600 on the paper-based test (115 on the computer-based test) is required for regular admission. In addition, these students must demonstrate competence in oral English before they will be allowed to assist as preceptors for the department, as described in the information for teaching assistants. (http://cte.illinois.edu/testing/oral_eng/main.html)

The deadline for applications is January 1 for admission in the following fall semester. Students are not normally permitted to start the program in the spring semester. For additional information see the department’s information for prospective graduate students (http://philosophy.illinois.edu/grad/admissions/).

Language Requirement

Every student must demonstrate competence in one of the four basic philosophical languages (French, German, Latin, or Greek) or else satisfy an alternative requirement (as described below), before advancing to the Third Stage of the program. In the case of French this may be done by passing with a grade of B or better or by passing an examination administered by the Department of French. In the case of German this may be done by passing with a grade of B or better or by passing an examination administered by the Department of German. In the case of Latin this may be done by passing with a grade of B or better any LAT course at the 300-, 400-, or 500-level. In the case of Greek this may be done by passing with a grade of B or better any GRK course at the 400- or 500-level (with the exception of and ). Alternatively students may pass a proficiency examination in Latin or Greek administered by the Department of the Classics, the form of which must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

To substitute a language other than one of the basic four, a student must first obtain approval of his or her adviser and of the Graduate Program Committee. Such approval normally will be granted only where the language is directly relevant to the student's work in philosophy.

The student may petition the Graduate Program Committee to replace the language requirement by an approved program of study in her or his area of research. This petition must include a written justification by the student or the advisor. If written by the student, the justification must be approved by the student's advisor. This program of study should be deemed more useful to the student’s research than a study of one the philosophical languages. It may, for example, involve intensive study of specific methods that will greatly enhance the student's research, such as scientific, mathematical, or statistical methods, or it may involve obtaining crucial knowledge of some field outside of philosophy, such as concentrated studies in law, psychology, or religion.
Graduate Teaching Experience
Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program.

Financial Aid
Students admitted to the Ph.D. program are offered financial aid, in the form of fellowships or assistantships, which cover living expenses and include a waiver of tuition and service fees. This aid will usually be continued for up to five years provided the student is making normal progress. Further details are qualifications are given in the department’s graduate regulations (http://philosophy.illinois.edu/grad/regulations/).