

MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY

Department Website: MA in Philosophy (<https://www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/philosophy/graduate-program/>)

Master of Arts in Philosophy

The Master of Arts in Philosophy at Gonzaga University builds on the foundational role of philosophical inquiry as central to the university's Jesuit, Catholic, humanistic identity. This rigorous program integrates coursework, supervised study, examinations, and an optional thesis to address key philosophical problems, developments and figures throughout history, including contemporary movements in philosophy as well as social, political and environmental ethics. By focusing on the core questions of reality, knowledge, and the good, the program fosters advanced skills in critical reflection, self-examination and intellectual engagement with diverse cultures and backgrounds. These objectives align with the Philosophy Department's mission and Gonzaga University's broader commitment to intellectual growth and moral reasoning so as to foster the development of informed, effective leadership. The program equips students with the necessary tools to analyze arguments, advance new concepts and confidently wield complex discursive strategies and methodologies across multiple career pathways, including Ph.D. studies in Philosophy or related disciplines, such as Theology, Law, Communications and/or Politics. It further provides students with the credentials to teach philosophy at the introductory, community college or university level.

The Master's degree is offered on a full-time or part-time with three programs (1 year program, 2 year program and an Accelerated 4 + 1 program for current GU undergraduates) basis during the regular session. While many courses offered in the Gonzaga Master of Arts program are cross-listed with undergraduate courses, two Graduate Seminars restricted to graduate students is offered each fall and one each spring. Two (remote) graduate-level history of philosophy courses are also available during summer as well as student initiated Directed Studies and the optional Thesis.

Admissions

1. Students applying to Gonzaga University must submit Gonzaga's Graduate Application, which can be accessed online at <https://www.gonzaga.edu/gradapply> (<https://apply-grad.gonzaga.edu/apply/>)
2. Along with the application for graduate study, each program at Gonzaga has distinct admission requirements. Please refer to the table below to view that detailed information.

Program Name	How to Apply Link
Master of Arts in Philosophy	https://www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/philosophy/graduate-program/ma-admissions (https://www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/philosophy/graduate-program/ma-admissions/)

Pre-requisite

B.A. with major (or acceptable background) in Philosophy from a regionally accredited college or university.

MA in Philosophy Program Requirements

Completion of the Master of Arts degree in Philosophy from Gonzaga University requires:

1. 30-credit program hours, including eight seminars (24 credits) and an option to do a Thesis (6 credits) or take two more Graduate Seminars or Directed Studies. At least four seminars (12 credits) must be graduate-specific (PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar or PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar). Students may also take up to four cross-listed Philosophy Major Seminars (PHIL 586 Seminar, PHIL 587 Seminar, or PHIL 588 Seminar) and up to two Directed Study courses (PHIL 690 Directed Study or PHIL 691 Directed Study) to complete their course requirements.
2. Registration in the Graduate Seminar each semester in which the student is taking course work.
3. Successful completion of a comprehensive examination (including written and oral components) (PHIL 697 Comprehensive Examination). Students are required to take PHIL 520 History of Philosophy I/PHIL 521 History of Philosophy II during the summer (as online courses) in order to prepare for this exam. Gonzaga Philosophy Major undergraduates can opt out of these two courses and take the comprehensive exam without enrolling in either PHIL 520 History of Philosophy I/PHIL 521 History of Philosophy II, though they will be encouraged to do so.
4. Successful completion of a logic exam, testing skills up to and including the predicate calculus (PHIL 695 Logic Requirement).
5. The M.A. program has no foreign language requirement, but a thesis director may require a student to have competency in translating texts from a foreign language into English depending on the student's thesis topic.

These requirements can be completed in one of the following three ways:

1 Year MA Thesis

Summer: PHIL 520 History of Philosophy I/PHIL 521 History of Philosophy II courses (if a non-alumnus from GU)

Fall: 2 PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar/PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar and 1 PHIL 586 Seminar/PHIL 587 Seminar,

Spring: 1 PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar/PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar and 1 PHIL 586 Seminar/PHIL 587 Seminar,

Summer: PHIL 699 Thesis

1 Year MA Non-Thesis

Summer: 2 PHIL 520 History of Philosophy I/PHIL 521 History of Philosophy II (if a non-alumnus from GU)

Fall: 2 PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar/PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar and 1 PHIL 586 Seminar/PHIL 587 Seminar,

Spring: 1 PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar/PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar and 1 PHIL 586 Seminar/PHIL 587 Seminar,

Summer: 2 PHIL 690 Directed Study/PHIL 691 Directed Study

2 Year MA Thesis/Non Thesis

Summer: 2 PHIL 520/521 History of Philosophy (if a non-alumnus from GU),

Fall: 2 PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar/PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar

Spring: 1 PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar/PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar

Fall: 2 PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar/PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar

Spring: 1 PHIL 577 Graduate Seminar/PHIL 579 Graduate Seminar

Summer: 2 PHIL 690 Directed Study/PHIL 691 Directed Study or PHIL 699 Thesis

Courses

PHIL 520. History of Philosophy I. (3 Credits)

In order to prepare entry level graduate students for both 1) graduate level education and 2) the required Comprehensive Exam covering the material of the course, History of Philosophy I will cover the Ancient and Medieval portion of texts on the MA Reading List. This includes Plato's Republic and Phaedo, Aristotle's Metaphysics and Ethics as well as selections from Augustine, Averroes, Aquinas and Anslem. The course will be a seminar and not lecture based with assessment via participation and daily in-class essays responding to questions that are likely to appear on the comprehensive exam.

PHIL 521. History of Philosophy II. (3 Credits)

In order to prepare entry level graduate students for both 1) graduate level education and 2) the required Comprehensive Exam covering the material of the course, History of Philosophy II will cover the Modern portion of texts on the MA Reading List. This includes Descartes, Hume, Kant, Mill and Nietzsche. The course will be a seminar and not lecture based with assessment via participation and daily in-class essays responding to questions that are likely to appear on the comprehensive exam.

PHIL 577. Graduate Seminar. (3 Credits)

May be repeated for credit.

A seminar will be scheduled for graduate students in philosophy each fall and spring semester. Topics will vary. Class size is limited to allow for greater student participation and writing.

PHIL 579. Graduate Seminar. (3 Credits)

May be repeated for credit.

A seminar will be scheduled for graduate students in philosophy each semester. Topics will vary. Class size is limited to allow for greater student participation and writing.

PHIL 586. Seminar. (1-3 Credits)

May be repeated for credit.

Topics will vary.

PHIL 587. Seminar. (3 Credits)

May be repeated for credit.

Topics will vary.

PHIL 588. Seminar. (3 Credits)

Topics will vary.

Equivalent: RELI 579A

PHIL 611. Continuing Research. (0-1 Credits)

May be repeated for credit.

Required of all graduate students to maintain continuous enrollment in the program while completing their final project.

PHIL 690. Directed Study. (1-7 Credits)

May be repeated for credit.

Credits and material to be arranged. Must have form completed before registering.

PHIL 691. Directed Study. (0-3 Credits)

May be repeated for credit.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Graduate Non-Matric, Law or Law Non-Matric level students.

PHIL 695. Logic Requirement. (0 Credits)

Students must register via ZAGWEB for comprehensive exams the semester you plan to take the exam for the first time.

PHIL 697. Comprehensive Examination. (0 Credits)

Students must register via ZAGWEB for comprehensive exams the semester they plan to take the exam for the first time.

PHIL 698. Research. (1-9 Credits)

PHIL 699. Thesis. (6 Credits)

Students must register via ZAGWEB for Thesis credits.