PHILOSOPHY, PH.D.


Saint Louis University's Doctor of Philosophy program is designed to prepare students to enter the field of philosophy as teachers and scholars prepared to engage at the highest levels of philosophical discourse.

Curriculum Overview

Courses in SLU's philosophy graduate program examine historical as well as contemporary issues such as problems in metaphysics, epistemology, social and political ethics, and philosophy of religion, among others.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Special resources available to the program include the international philosophical journal, Res Philosophica; the Vatican Film Library, one of the finest repositories of its kind in the Western hemisphere; and the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

There are regular opportunities to work with eminent visiting scholars, numerous colloquia and conferences, a wide variety of reading groups as well as opportunities to participate in exchange programs.

Careers

Possible careers for philosophy graduates include diplomat, professor, lawyer, church minister and public service official.

Admission Requirements

There are no necessary requirements for acceptance into the graduate program in philosophy. However, a philosophy major is strongly recommended. In general, at least six philosophy courses are expected, including logic and history of philosophy.

Application Requirements

- Application form and fee
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE scores
- Résumé
- Professional goal statement

Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency)
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Assistantship Application Deadline

Students who want to be considered for a philosophy assistantship must submit their application by Jan. 15.

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by a committee of philosophy department faculty members. The American Philosophical Association rules stipulate an April 15 national deadline to make formal offers to philosophy graduate studies applicants and for those applicants to accept the offer to attend.

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for graduate assistantships and tuition scholarships, applicants should complete their applications by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and health insurance for the duration of the award.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid.

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to make a scholarly contribution to the field of philosophy.
2. Graduates will be able to teach philosophy effectively (meeting expectations on all dimensions of the “Checklist for Review of Graduate Student Teachers”).

Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History of Philosophy</td>
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<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<td>Medieval Philosophy</td>
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<td>Modern Philosophy</td>
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<td>Topics Courses</td>
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<td>The 15 credits in the topics area must also be distributed over three of the following four areas:</td>
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<td>Professors will specify in which of these four areas their courses fall. No course may concurrently fulfill both a History and a Topics requirement</td>
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<td>Nine credits of these must be relevant to an Area of Competence (AOC).</td>
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<td>Epistemology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Advanced Symbolic Logic</td>
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<td>PHIL 6220</td>
<td>Advanced Logic</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<td>Select 9 credits of Electives</td>
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</table>
**PHIL 6990**  
Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters)  
12

**Total Credits**  
57

* This course, which examines the metatheory of propositional and predicate logic, must be passed with a grade of B or higher, and ordinarily is to be taken during the first year of graduate studies. Students who have taken a similar course prior to entering the program may have this requirement waived by the chair of the department, in consultation with the chairs of the department’s graduate admissions committee and graduate logic committee. Alternatively, students may take an exam covering the material of the Advanced Symbolic Logic course. The course requirement would then be waived if the student achieved a grade of B or higher on the exam. Students who have this requirement waived will then choose an additional course as an elective.

**Non-Course Requirements**

A two-hour oral examination on the dissertation prospectus covering:

1. the relationship between the dissertation topic and the broader discipline, whether contemporary or historical, and
2. the philosophical importance of the topic itself.

**Continuation Standards**

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

**Roadmap**

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 6400</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy (See Program Notes)</td>
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<td>PHIL 6220</td>
<td>Advanced Logic (See Program Notes)</td>
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<td>PHIL 5300</td>
<td>Problems in Ethical Theories (See Program Notes)</td>
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<td>Advanced Epistemology</td>
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<td>PHIL 6360</td>
<td>Seminar in Political Philosophy</td>
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<td>Prob in Philosophy of Religion</td>
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<td><strong>Year Three</strong></td>
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<td>PHIL 5100</td>
<td>Feminist Epistemologies</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Program Notes**

By the end of the sixth semester of study, the student should have taken 45 credits of coursework.

By the end of the 10th semester of study, the student must have completed 12 credits in PHIL 6990 Dissertation Research.