Regulae

Requirements, Policies, and Procedures for the Ph.D. and M.A. Programs

Department of Philosophy
Boston University

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I. Introduction

The policies, requirements, and procedures set forth on the following pages supplement the general policies, requirements, and procedures of the Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as stated at http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/policies/ and should be read in conjunction with them. The Philosophy faculty reserves the right to waive any departmental rule relating to these policies, requirements, procedures, or any other aspect of the graduate program in exceptional circumstances and upon petition by the student.

II. Graduate School Requirements

All graduate students are required to enroll in no less than one course (4 credits) during each semester until they have completed their course requirements. They must also be registered in both the semester in which they complete degree requirements and the preceding semester. When the work of a course has not been completed within the semester of registration, the grade of I is used. This automatically becomes a permanent I (unsatisfactory grade) unless the coursework is completed within the following calendar year. (See VII. below). Grades of I and C+ or lower are interpreted as failures. In other words, a course is successfully completed only if a grade of B- or better is achieved. A student receiving such grades in more than two semester courses (or more than a total of 8 credit hours) is terminated from the program. Grades, including incompletes, may not be changed after a period of one year from the time the original grade is recorded.

III. Admission and General Departmental Requirements

The Department of Philosophy admits candidates to four programs of post-graduate study, leading to the Ph.D., terminal M.A., J.D./M.A. and B.A./M.A.. In rare cases, students may be admitted to the program for the Spring rather than the Fall. Their examination schedules and other deadlines will be adjusted correspondingly at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies. The terminal M.A. may be pursued by full-time or part-time students. However, part-time applications for the Ph.D. are strongly discouraged.

All applicants should have completed the equivalent of an undergraduate major in philosophy, typically with an average of B or higher. Students with minors in philosophy are also encouraged to apply. All applicants for admission to the terminal M.A. or the Ph.D. programs in philosophy are required to submit their Graduate Record Examination scores and a sample of written work with their applications to the Committee on Admissions of the Department of Philosophy. Completed applications for admissions should reach the Graduate School Office no later than January 15. Financial aid is limited to Ph.D. candidates. Special provisions for admission to the J.D./M.A. and B.A./M.A. programs can be found below.

The faculty resolved in October of 2011 that each incoming graduate student, whether in the terminal M.A. and Ph.D. programs, is henceforth to be assigned a faculty advisor by the DGS. The advisor is expected to (a) meet with the student at least once per year (preferably more often), (b) review the student's grades in their courses, (c) ensure that the student satisfies the distribution, language, and logic requirements, and (d) address any special difficulties the student may be experiencing. The advisor is expected to communicate any concerns to the DGS, and to be responsible for discussing with the student areas of research interest and/or directing the student toward potential advisors for the QP. When students
determine the area in which they plan to specialize they will be free to choose their own advisor (contingent of course on that faculty member agreeing to take on the role), who might well become the first reader of their dissertation.

If there are serious concerns about a student's progress, these will be communicated in writing to her/him by the DGS, based on consultation with the advisor and the results of departmental discussion at the annual meeting (which normally takes place in the Spring of the academic year).

A student who is admitted to candidacy for the PhD will count his or her thesis director as advisor. The faculty member directing an M.A. student's thesis will count as advisor. Students in the JD/MA program will be assigned advisors by those faculty responsible for administering that program.

IV. Summaries of Requirements for Programs

A. Ph.D. A candidate for the Ph.D. must successfully complete or satisfy within 5 years (if post-MA) or 7 years (if post-BA)
   1. requisite coursework, including a specific distribution of courses,
   2. the language requirement,
   3. the logic requirement,
   4. the qualifying papers; (NB: because of a revision in the rules, students admitted before 2007, and only they, may take a comprehensive examination instead of the qualifying papers. For information about this option, consult the DGS.)
   5. the dissertation prospectus (with oral defense),
   6. the dissertation (with oral defense).

B. The terminal M.A. A candidate for the terminal M.A. must successfully complete within 3 years
   1. requisite coursework,
   2. the logic requirement,
   3. the master’s thesis (with oral defense).

C. J.D./M.A. A candidate for the J.D./M.A. must successfully complete within 3 years
   1. requisite coursework, approved by a joint advisory board,
   2. requirements for terminal M.A., and
   3. requirements for J.D. degree.

D. B.A./M.A. A candidate for the B.A./M.A. must successfully within the first year after graduation with the B.A. degree.
   1. a major in philosophy or a joint philosophy major at Boston University,
   2. requisite coursework,
   3. the master’s thesis (with oral defense).

NB: the deadline for applying for graduation with a M.A. degree (that includes the B.A./M.A, the terminal M.A., and the M.A. that is part of a dual-degree program) is July 1
(for September graduation), November 1 (for January graduation), and February 1 (for May graduation). The deadline for applying for graduation and with the Ph.D. degree is November 1 (for January graduation) and February 1 (for May graduation). (See the Graduation Calendar on the GRS website for other deadlines pertinent to the completion of degree requirements.)

E. The Dual Degree Program with Classical Studies. This program allows the student to earn both the Ph.D. in philosophy, and an M.A. in Classics. Students must fulfill all degree requirements in both programs. For post-B.A. candidates, the dual-degree program is a 19 course program of 76 credit hours. Eleven courses (44 credit hours) receive credit only for the Ph.D. in the Department of Philosophy; three courses (12 credit hours) receive credit only for the M.A. in the Department of Classical Studies; five courses (20 credit hours) receive credit both for the Ph.D. and for the M.A. For full details of the program, please see [http://www.bu.edu/classics/graduate/graduate-programs/](http://www.bu.edu/classics/graduate/graduate-programs/).

V. Specific Requirements, Policies, and Procedures

A. Ph.D.

1. Coursework.

Graduate students working towards a Ph.D. must successfully complete a certain number of courses, some of which must be distributed over courses in five categories, indicated in the table below. They must also register for at least one course per semester until the course requirements are completed. Students are, however, typically advised to register for at least two courses per semester. The specifics of coursework requirements are as follows.

a. Post-B.A. students are required

(i) to complete successfully a minimum of 16 graduate-school accredited courses (64 credits), at the 600 level and above, of which at least 12 (44 credits) must be in philosophy and at least 4 at the 800 or 900 level,

(ii) to select at least 2 courses each from the following 3 categories: (1) Ancient & Medieval, (2) Modern, (3) 20th century; and 1 each from (4) Theoretical Philosophy, (5) Practical Philosophy. See Table below.

b. Post-M.A. students are required

(i) to complete successfully a minimum of 8 graduate-school accredited courses (32 credits), of which at least 5 (20 credits) must be in philosophy and at least 3 at the 800 or 900 level.

(ii) to select one course each from categories (1) Ancient & Medieval, (2) Modern, (3) 20th century, and one from either (4) Theoretical Philosophy or (5) Practical Philosophy.
### Table of Categories of Courses for Distribution Requirement

#### (1) Ancient & Medieval
- **603** Plato I
- **604** Plato II
- **605** Aristotle I
- **606** Aristotle II
- **607** Stoics, Epicureans, and Skeptics
- **608** History of Medieval Philosophy
- **609** Maimonides
- **680** Topics in Ancient & Medieval Philosophy
- **801** Ancient Philosophy I
- **802** Ancient Philosophy II
- **803** Medieval Philosophy

#### (2) Modern
- **610** Continental Rationalism
- **611** British Empiricism
- **612** Philosophy of the Enlightenment
- **613** Kant
- **614** Hume
- **615** Nineteenth Century Philosophy
- **616** Hegel
- **617** Hegel’s Phenomenology
- **618** Marx & Marxism
- **619** Nietzsche
- **680** Topics in Ancient & Medieval Philosophy
- **805** Modern Philosophy
- **806** Topics in the Philosophy of Kant
- **809** Topics in the Philosophy of Hegel
- **811** Kant I
- **812** Kant II
- **813** Kant III
- **814** Kant IV
- **816** Hegel

#### (3) 20th Century
- **620** Contemporary Philosophy
- **621** Frege, Moore, and Russell
- **622** Analytic Philosophy
- **623** History of the Vienna Circle
- **624** Wittgenstein
- **626** Phenomenology
- **627** Heidegger & Existential Phenomenology
- **630** American Philosophy
- **682** Topics in Modern & Contemporary Philosophy
- **684** Topics in Speculative Philosophy
- **686** Topics in Knowledge, Language, & Logic
- **687** Topics in Philosophy of Science
- **815** Philosophy of Logic
- **817** Philosophy of Math
- **820** Contemporary Philosophy
- **821** Analytic Philosophy
- **822** Quine’s Philosophy
- **824** Whitehead
- **825** Metaphysics
- **826** Advanced Phenomenology
- **827** Heidegger
- **832** Contemporary Issues in the Philosophy of Science
- **834** Philosophical Problems in the Foundation of Biology
- **835** Seminar: Philosophy of Social Science
- **840** Metaphysics
- **841** Phenomenology I
- **842** Phenomenology II

#### (4) Theoretical
- **633** Symbolic Logic
- **640** Metaphysics
- **641** Philosophical Idealism
- **643** Philosophy of Mind
- **644** Persons and Nature
- **646** Philosophy of Religion
- **647** Asian Philosophy
- **650** Epistemology
- **660** Mathematical Logic
- **661** Foundations of Mathematics
- **663** Philosophy of Language
- **665** Philosophy of Cognitive Science
- **667** Math Logic
- **668** Philosophical Problems of Logic and Mathematics
- **670** Philosophy of Physics
- **672** Philosophy of Biology
- **673** Philosophy of History
- **674** Inductive Logic & Scientific Methodology
- **677** Philosophy of the Social Sciences
- **684** Topics in Speculative Philosophy
- **686** Topics in Knowledge, Language, & Logic
- **687** Topics in Philosophy of Science
- **815** Philosophy of Logic
- **817** Philosophy of Math
- **820** Contemporary Philosophy
- **821** Analytic Philosophy
- **822** Quine’s Philosophy
- **824** Whitehead
- **825** Metaphysics
- **826** Advanced Phenomenology
- **827** Heidegger
- **832** Contemporary Issues in the Philosophy of Science
- **834** Philosophical Problems in the Foundation of Biology
- **835** Seminar: Philosophy of Social Science
- **840** Metaphysics
- **841** Phenomenology I
- **842** Phenomenology II

**Note:** The above list is extracted from the document and includes all courses listed under the categories of distribution requirements as of March 30, 2014.
(5) Practical

636 Gender, Race, and Science 683 Topics in the Philosophy of Religion
650 Types of Ethical Theory 685 Topics in the Philosophy of Value
651 Contemporary Ethical Theory 688 Topics in Aesthetics
652 Ethics of Health Care 807 Aesthetics, Perception, and Representation
653 Theories of Political Society 819 Ethics
654 Community, Liberty, & Morality 823 Seminar: Social and Political Philosophy
655 Legal Philosophy 828 Seminar in the Philosophy of Religion
656 Topics in Philosophy and Religion 829 Seminar in Political Philosophy
657 Action, Interpretation and Narrative 837 Seminar: Philosophy of Education
658 Crime & Punishment: Philosophical Perspectives 850 Ethics
659 Political and Legal Philosophy 854 Seminar in Political Philosophy
671 Ecology in Philosophy and Literature 858 Aesthetics
681 Topics in the Philosophy of Law

The following courses may satisfy different area requirements depending on the content of the course in the given semester:

880 Topics in Philosophy 1
881 Proseminar for First Year Graduate Students
883 Topics in Philosophy

NB: students may petition the DGS in order to count a course not listed above as meeting a distribution requirement. Please note that some of these courses have not been offered for several years.

c. No more than 3 directed studies (for a total of 12 credits) may be taken toward course requirements.

d. All entering PhD students, whether post-B.A. or post-M.A., must enroll in the Fall semester of their first year in the program in the graduate seminar designated for all and only entering students. The specific “first year seminar” will be a regular course designated on a yearly basis for this purpose.

2. Logic Proficiency

Every graduate student must demonstrate competence in logic by

a. Passing PH 633, 661, 662, 667, 668, 674 or 864 with a “B+” or higher

OR

b. Passing a logic examination, administered by the department, that assumes the knowledge provided by PH 633.

With regard to the logic examination, students are expected to be able to solve problems in and/or answer basic questions about (at least):
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1. Representation of everyday arguments in first order quantificational logic and truth-functional logic, with knowledge of the presuppositions about pronomial constructions and treatment of predicates and singular terms;
2. Elementary metatheoretic proofs and ideas in truth-functional logic (satisfiability, consistency of schemata and collections of schemata);
3. Elementary characterizations of notions in basic axiomatics (the notions of a formal system, a recursively specified formalized language, an axiom, completeness, soundness);
4. Problems concerning truth definitions, including the notion of a model (or structure).

3. Language proficiency

By the end of the third year of graduate study, every graduate student must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in reading at least one language other than English. The language should be French, German, Greek or Latin (unless the student’s native language is French or German, in which case the requirement may be waived at the discretion of the DGS). Any language other than English may fulfill the requirement if (a) it is needed for dissertation work and (b) approval is granted by the DGS. This competence may be established in one of the following three ways:

a. Passing a translation examination administered by the Department of Philosophy. The format for this examination is as follows: students will be given no more than two hours to complete the examination with the help of dictionary or lexicon; the examination is to have two parts; in part one students are required to give a literal translation in English of a passage from a primary source and in part two they are required to summarize in English the main points of another passage (from a secondary source).

OR

b. Achieving a “B+” or higher in an intermediate language graduate course (normally a translation course) administered by another department and approved by the DGS. Students may take a graduate reading course, which will be numbered as 621, to meet this requirement. If so, the student must be registered for at least two credits or for Continuing Study, since this is a zero credit course and does not generate any tuition charge. If a student intends to use this course to satisfy the language requirement, and if the instructor grades only on a pass/fail basis, then a “pass” will be deemed as equivalent to a “B+”.

OR

c. Passing the SAT Subject Test in a Foreign Language with a score of at least 600 (the test is administered for a small fee through the Geddes Language Center, normally in mid-October and mid-March; contact 353-2640). Eligible languages are: French, Spanish, Italian, German, Modern Hebrew, and Latin.

d. NB: Any student for whom English is not a primary language must also satisfactorily demonstrate to the DGS his or her proficiency in writing, reading, and speaking English. At his or her discretion, the DGS may accept
a TOEFL score of 600 or higher as satisfying this requirement. The DGS may also require remedial work in English in addition to a TOEFL score of 600 or higher. A student should contact the CELOP at BU office in connection with the TOEFL.

e. NB: In addition, students must possess a good reading knowledge of any language that is important for their dissertation work. For example, students writing a dissertation on Plato must at least satisfy the requirements of an intermediate Greek course, with the expectation that the study of the language will be an ongoing activity. A dissertation proposal will not be approved until the relevant mastery has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the dissertation director. The director will have the discretion of accepting a grade of B+ or higher in a relevant language as evidence of competence; or adequate performance on a translation examination; or any other reasonable means of determining competence.

4. Examination for admission to candidacy to the PhD: the qualifying papers

To remain in good standing Ph.D. students must submit their Qualifying Papers (QP’s) for the first time by the end of their third year (i.e. August 31st), if they were admitted post-B.A., or if they were admitted post-M.A. by the end of their second year (i.e. August 31st). These papers must be substantial pieces of philosophical work, demonstrating a strong knowledge of the relevant topic and a good deal of original thought. A reasonable effort should be made to engage the relevant and important secondary literature. The papers may (but need not) be derived from papers originally written for course credit. It should not be assumed that a paper that receives an "A" in a course will be of sufficient quality. While a successful QP need not be publishable as is, it should be formatted, conceived, and written as a piece of work intended to demonstrate that a student has sufficient research competence to publish a piece of writing in the future. The QP’s should develop and defend a coherent argument and demonstrate a clear statement of purpose. The purpose of the QP’s is to ascertain whether or not the student is ready to take the next step, viz. to write a dissertation; the readers of the QP’s therefore look for evidence to that effect and judge accordingly. Papers should not be longer than 9,000 words.

The QP’s must be "self-standing" works. In other words, each must be intelligible to philosophers other than those who may have participated in a seminar on the topic of the paper. The papers must be on topics in substantially different areas of philosophy; for example, it is not acceptable to submit two metaphysics papers, or two papers on ancient figures, or two papers in ethics. All students should meet with their advisor about their proposed QP topics, and should secure the advisor’s consent as to the topics before writing the QP’s. The advisor will note his or her decision in this regard for the record. Where there is any question as to whether or not the QP’s are in sufficiently different areas of philosophy, the advisor will consult with the DGS who will determine what qualifies as a "substantially different" area of philosophy. The student should remain in good communication with his or her advisor while writing the Qualifying Papers.

The examining committee will be appointed by the Chair of the Department, who will consult with the Director of Graduate Studies. Before consulting with the Chair,
the DGS may meet with the student for whom the committee is being formed. The committee will deliver its evaluation and a written report on the papers within three weeks of their submission.

Papers will receive one of two grades: "pass" or "not-pass." If a paper does not pass, the committee will offer one of two directives: either to revise the paper based on comments contained within the report, or to submit an entirely new paper. The committee may request a meeting with the student.

NB: if the examining committee asks the student to revise the paper this implies that the paper has received a grade of “not-pass.”

If students receive a not-pass they will have until January 15 of their fourth year (for post-BA students) or of their third year (for post-MA students) to re-submit their qualifying papers. Students will have two and only two opportunities to submit each paper.

To clarify the above by means of an example: assume a student submits Paper X and Paper Y on August 31, 2025, and then receives a not-pass/revise on Paper X and a not-pass/new submission on Paper Y. Assume further that the student then revises Paper X and resubmits it and writes a new Paper Z and submits that on December 31, 2025. Both of these submissions count as the second and therefore final opportunity the student will have to submit Qualifying Papers. The student will not be able to submit additional qualifying papers.

Students must inform the DGS in writing when they re-submit a qualifying paper, either in the form of a revised paper or a new paper.

If after two submissions either of the two qualifying papers has not passed, students must leave the program.

It will be left to the discretion of the DGS whether a student may submit a QP earlier than Aug. 31.

The rule above will apply to all students who enter the program in September 2012 and subsequent years. It also applies to students already enrolled in the program in the following manner:

1) Students (post-B.A. and post-M.A.) who entered the Ph.D. program in September 2011 will be required to conform to the rule as stated above.

2) Post-M.A. students who entered the Ph.D. program in September 2010, and all students (post-B.A. and post-M.A.) who entered in September 2009 or 2008 will have until August 31, 2013 to submit their Qualifying Papers for the first time and thereby to remain in good standing.

3) Post-B.A. students who entered the program in 2010 will have until August 31,
2014 to submit their Qualifying Papers for the first time and thereby remain in good standing.

4) Students who have already begun the process of paper submission by the (specified day of submission in) October 2012 (or earlier) will not be subject to the rule above. Instead, they will be subject to the old rule:

At some point after their first year of study, and before they submit a Prospectus of their dissertation, all Ph.D. students must submit two qualifying papers that will be examined by a committee of two professors. These papers must be substantial pieces of philosophical work, demonstrating a strong knowledge of the relevant topic and a good deal of original thought. The papers may (but need not) be derived from papers originally written for course credit. It should not be assumed that a paper that receives an "A" in a course will be of sufficient quality. The papers must be "self-standing" works. In other words, each must be intelligible to philosophers other than those who may have participated in a seminar on the topic of the paper. The papers must be on topics in substantially different areas of philosophy; for example, it is not acceptable to submit two metaphysics papers, or two papers on ancient figures, or two papers in ethics. The DGS will determine what qualifies as a "substantially different" area of philosophy. Papers should not be longer than 9,000 words.

The examining committee will be appointed by the Chair of the Department, who will consult with the Director of Graduate Studies. Before consulting with the Chair, the DGS will meet with the student for whom the committee is being formed. Students must communicate to the DGS in writing their intention to submit the qualifying papers within the first two weeks of either semester. They must then submit the papers within the first eight weeks of the semester. The committee will deliver its evaluation and a written report on the papers within three weeks of their submission.

Papers will receive one of two grades: "pass" or "not-pass." If a paper does not pass, the committee will offer one of two directives: either to revise the paper based on comments contained within the report, or to submit an entirely new paper. The committee may request a meeting with the student.

NB: if the examining committee asks the student to revise the paper this implies that the paper has received a grade of “not-pass.”

Students will have only three opportunities to submit each paper. If they receive a “not-pass” on their first attempt, regardless of whether the examining committee has asked them either to revise or submit a new paper, they will have only two subsequent opportunities to re-
submit papers. After receiving a “not-pass” on the second attempt, students will have only one more opportunity to submit a qualifying paper. Students must inform the DGS in writing when they re-submit a qualifying paper.

To clarify the above by means of an example: assume a student submits Paper A and Paper B and then receives a not-pass/revise on Paper A and a not-pass/new paper on Paper B. Assume further that the student then revises Paper A and resubmits it and writes a new Paper C and submits that. Both of these submissions count as the second opportunity the student will have to submit Qualifying Papers. If Paper A passes but Paper C receives a not-pass/revise the student may revise Paper C and resubmit it. This would be the student’s third and final opportunity to submit a Qualifying Paper. After three submissions, if both qualifying papers have not passed, students must leave the program.

5. Dissertation

a. Prospectus. After all other requirements for the Ph.D. have been completed, a dissertation prospectus (proposal) of twenty double-spaced or ten single-spaced pages (not including bibliography) must be submitted to the Graduate School by no later than the Fall of the fifth year (the fourth year for post-MA). Students must petition the DGS if they intend to submit later than this. The prospectus should demonstrate the viability of the proposed topic and the candidate’s ability to complete the dissertation within a specified schedule. The prospectus should include a statement of both the principal problems to be addressed in the dissertation and the importance of addressing them, a tentative outline and description of the subdivisions or chapters of the dissertation, and a bibliography of significant previous work relevant to the topic. The proposal must be approved by the major professor/first reader who, together with the DGS, arranges an oral defense of the proposal. When the candidate’s prospectus is approved by the first reader for the oral defense, it must be submitted to the DGS two weeks in advance of the scheduled oral defense. The DGS will announce the time and place of the oral defense no later than one week in advance of the defense and make copies available to faculty and graduate students. The defense is open to all members of the department but must include the student, the first reader, and two other faculty members, one of whom is normally asked to be the second reader. If, at the end of the defense, the proposal meets with the approval of the first and second readers, they sign the Graduate School approval form. A copy of the proposal, including the signed approval by the two readers, is then submitted to the Graduate School. When the Graduate School has approved the proposal, the student officially becomes a philosophiae candidatus or, more popularly, an “ABD.”

Should the second reader not be a member of the GRS faculty, a “Request for a Special Service Appointment in the Graduate School” form must be submitted at the same time that the prospectus is submitted to GRS.

b. Writing the dissertation. The student should keep in mind that while most
dissertations are not directly publishable, it has become a common practice to develop one’s dissertation into one’s first book or at least into a series of articles. The dissertation topic must therefore be chosen with care; it is likely that the student will continue working on that topic until his or her first sabbatical. Further, the choice of dissertation topic will have a decisive influence on the student’s opportunities in obtaining a position beyond graduate studies.

c. Dissertation completion and defense. The completed doctoral dissertation must be submitted to the readers for approval. The physical format of the dissertation --typing or word processing, pagination, footnotes, title and approval pages, fees, copyright, etc.—should conform to directives to be found in the "Guide for Writers of Theses and Dissertations," available in the GRS office. Standard resources include A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate L. Turabian (University of Chicago Press), the Chicago Manual of Style, or the MLA style manual. Once approved by the readers, the dissertation must be defended orally before a committee ("defense committee").

Review of the Dissertation Format: at least three weeks prior to the defense the student must make an appointment with the Graduate School Records Officer for review of the format of the dissertation. Arrangements for the format review for students living at a distance can be made by contacting the Records Officer. Please note that the final approval of the dissertation format is made by Mugar Memorial Library staff. It is recommended that the dissertation be properly formatted prior to the defense, so that following the defense only corrections and revisions recommended by the defense committee need be made.

Members of the defense committee must receive copies of the dissertation as well as an abstract of the dissertation at least two weeks before the scheduled defense. The committee may suggest or require final emendations to the dissertation. If the committee decides that the dissertation has been successfully defended, then it is up to the student to submit the dissertation in its final form, including any revisions mandated by the defense committee, to the Graduate School. The details of these procedures are as follows:

(1) Oral defense: When the readers have approved the final draft of the dissertation, the DGS will schedule a final oral defense of the dissertation. Normally the committee for the defense consists of three faculty members (chosen by the DGS) in addition to the first and second readers. One of the three serves as Chair of the committee. The student must submit copies of the approved dissertation as well as an abstract to the members of the defense committee two weeks before the scheduled defense. The student is responsible for finding a time convenient to all members. (All graduate students and faculty in the department are notified well ahead of time, in case anyone wishes to exercise his or her right to attend.) The date and time of the scheduled defense must conform to Graduate School deadlines. Early dates are preferable to allow sufficient time for minor changes in the dissertation that may be required by the defense committee.

Family and friends of the candidate may attend the defense.

(2) Abstract. The Graduate School requires an abstract of the
dissertation to be submitted at least three weeks before the scheduled Defense. The abstract must be typed in the same format as the dissertation and must be no longer than 350 words. The abstract is submitted in three copies along with the dissertation as finally approved by the student’s committee: one in each copy of the dissertation and a third for use by University Microfilms. The abstract should give a succinct account of the dissertation, including a statement of its thesis, procedure or methodology, and conclusions. Illustrative materials, formulae or diagrams should not be included. (Note: Because this abstract in some cases is the only published evidence of a Boston University dissertation, held in the University library, all abstracts are reviewed by the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.)

(3) Schedule prior to the Oral Defense

(a) Three weeks (or more) prior to the Oral Defense: the Dissertation Abstract Approval Page (the “Doctoral Dissertation Defense Abstract” form) is available on the GRS website as well as from the GRS office. The student is required to obtain the signatures of the student's advisor (First Reader), the DGS, and the Chair on this cover page, assuring the Dean that each of them has reviewed the abstract. The student will be notified of approval. Special Service appointment forms (for committee members not on CAS/GRS faculty) must be completed at this time if necessary. These forms must be accompanied by the external professor's C.V. and sent to the GRS Associate Dean's Office.

(b) Between Two and Three weeks prior to the Oral Defense: After being notified by the GRS Office that the abstract has been approved, the student must submit 14 copies of the abstract to GRS with the “Schedule of the Final Oral Examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy” form. To complete this form the student will need to know all the committee members and have a time, date, and place for the Defense. The only signature required on the schedule form is the department Chair.

(c) One week prior to the Oral Defense: the student must submit one copy of the entire dissertation to the DGS' office for faculty and graduate students to peruse. This copy does not need to be formatted exactly right, etc.—just so long as the text is complete.

(d) Between one and two weeks prior to the Oral Defense: the defense of the dissertation will be announced to department (the DGS will need to know: name, title of dissertation, date, time, location, and will also state that a copy of dissertation and copies of the abstract are available in his or her office). An announcement of the defense will be distributed to faculty and graduate students in Philosophy Department.
(4) Procedures at the Oral Defense

(a) Presentation and examination: Customarily the Chair of the Examination asks the candidate to sum up his or her dissertation in five to ten minutes, and then the First reader examines the candidate, typically concerning the overall argument of the dissertation, for up to 20 minutes, followed by the Second Reader, who typically addresses specific points or parts of the dissertation for around 20 minutes. The three remaining members of the examining committee each take up to ten minutes. That done, the Chair opens the floor for general disputation, in which all members of the Graduate Faculty present can take part. The entire Oral Defense might take up to two hours.

(b) Discussion and vote: Upon conclusion of the Defense, the candidate and all but members of the committee are asked to withdraw. After appropriate discussion, the Chair asks each of those present to cast a vote on the dissertation and on the Defense. The options open to the Committee include (1) to approve; (2) to approve subject to specific changes to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Readers; (3) to approve subject to specific changes to be carried out to the satisfaction of the committee at a future meeting; (4) to adjourn for a specific period--usually one semester--while the candidate rewrites the dissertation; (5) to fail the Defense and the dissertation. If the committee votes to fail the candidate, it can recommend either that the candidate be terminated or that he or she be permitted to recommence his or her studies with a new proposal.

(5) Submission to the Graduate School. No later than two weeks after successful defense of the doctoral dissertation, the dissertation should be submitted in its final form, including any revisions mandated by the defense committee, to the Graduate School. (See the Graduation Calendar on the GRS Website for deadlines for submission to GRS). As noted in (2) above, the abstract is submitted in three copies along with the dissertation as finally approved by the student’s committee: one in each copy of the dissertation and a third for use by University Microfilms.

6. Time-Limit

Post-B.A. candidates for the doctoral degree are required to complete the program within seven years after the first registration for doctoral study. Post-M.A. students must complete the program within five years. Students may petition the Graduate School to extend these deadlines.

7. M.A. for post-B.A. doctoral students

Post-B.A. students admitted into the doctoral program may also obtain the M.A. by satisfying the requirements set forth by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the coursework requirements indicated for the terminal M.A. Post-B.A. students who are candidates for the M.A. are required to submit a thesis similar to the one
required for the terminal M.A. Writing a thesis permits the student to develop a degree of competence in a particular area of philosophy. It may also prove helpful for the student to be able to record this officially recognized competence on his or her curriculum vitae. The student’s advisor should be consulted about the usefulness of such a thesis in each individual case. The M.A. thesis for the Ph.D. student need not be orally defended. Note that the M.A. thesis must satisfy normal requirements for scholarly style, and also conform to the applicable "Guide for Writers of Theses and Dissertations." The Guide is available in the GRS office. Completed M.A. theses are submitted to GRS and are on file in Mugar Library. At least three weeks prior to submission of the thesis to GRS, the student must make an appointment with the Graduate School Records Officer, for review of the format of the thesis. Arrangements for the format review, for students living at a distance can be made by contacting the Records Officer. Please note that the final approval of the dissertation format is made by Mugar Memorial Library staff. Completed M.A. theses are submitted to GRS and are on file in Mugar Memorial Library. See the Graduation Calendar on the GRS Website for deadlines for submission to GRS.

B. The terminal M. A. degree

The M.A. is a terminal degree for full or part-time students. Students must register for at least one course per semester until the course requirements are completed. It is recommended, however, that they register for two. Candidates for the terminal M.A. degree do not ordinarily apply to the Ph. D. program in philosophy at Boston University. The terminal M.A. program is not conceived as a special preparation for or avenue into the Ph. D. program. The terminal M.A. and the Ph.D. programs are entirely separate in this sense. Terminal M.A. students who apply for admission to the Ph. D. program are considered as forming part of the pool of applicants to the Ph.D. program.

1. Coursework: 8 courses, at least 5 of which must be in philosophy and 1 of which may be in a language. The requirements with respect to incompletes and unsatisfactory grades are the same as for the Ph.D. program.

2. Logic proficiency: same as for Ph.D.; see above.

3. Language proficiency: the foreign language requirement is contingent upon the nature of the M.A. thesis. Only if the student’s thesis director mandates it will the student be required to demonstrate competence in a foreign language. The standards for meeting this requirement will be determined by the thesis director.

4. Master’s Thesis: The master’s thesis consists in an investigation or study of a specific problem, theme, or area of philosophy, and is composed under the direction of a current member of the department of philosophy. Aimed at helping prepare the student to make contributions to philosophical discussion and debate, the thesis should take the form of a scholarly publication or monograph, not over 19,000 words, with adequate documentation and bibliography as appropriate (those are included in the word limit). The thesis must be examined by two faculty members and defended at an oral examination before the same two professors. One of the professors will be the thesis director.

Note that the M.A. thesis must satisfy normal requirements for scholarly style, and also conform to the applicable "Guide for Writers of Theses and Dissertations" The guide is available in the GRS office. At least three weeks prior to submission of the
thesis to GRS, the student must make an appointment with the Graduate School Records Officer, for review of the format of the thesis. Arrangements for the format review for students living at a distance can be made by contacting the Records Officer. Please note that the final approval of the dissertation format is made by Mugar Memorial Library staff. Completed M.A. theses are submitted to GRS and are on file in Mugar Memorial Library. See Graduation Calendar on the GRS Website for deadlines for submission to GRS.

5. Time-Limit and Registration: Study must be completed within three years after the first registration for study leading to the M.A. degree. Students must be registered in the semester in which the degree requirements are completed as well as in the preceding semester.

C. The JD/MA Dual-Degree Program in Law and Philosophy

1. Administration: The JD/MA Dual-Degree Program in Law and Philosophy is administered by a joint advisory board consisting of at least two members of the faculty of the School of Law and two members of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy.

2. Admissions and Timing of Degree Awards: Candidates for the dual-degree program must apply and be admitted separately to the JD and the MA programs. The two degrees will be awarded simultaneously.

3. Academic Requirements: Candidates for the dual degree must meet the requirements for the MA and the JD as established for those programs. For the dual degree, there are the following special provisions:

   a. The student must take at least four graduate-level courses or seminars in the Philosophy Department. Registration for these courses must be in the Graduate School rather than the School of Law.

   b. The student must take a jurisprudence or legal-theory course that is cross-listed between the School of Law and the Philosophy Department. That course must be one of the following: (a) JD947 (Recent American Legal Thought), (b) JD612 (Philosophy of Law), or (c) a cross-listed course certified by the joint advisory board as sufficient to meet the requirements of this section. This course may count as the student’s fifth course in Philosophy, required for the MA regardless of whether the student has registered for the course in the Graduate School or in the School of Law.

   c. In addition to the courses required by paragraphs a. and b. above, the student may apply toward the MA degree any combination of (1) courses of substantial philosophical or content offered in the School of Law that have been included by the joint advisory board on a list of MA-eligible courses, or (2) additional graduate-level courses in the Philosophy Department.

   d. In order to receive the MA degree in this dual-degree program, the student must earn at least 32 credits in courses described under paragraphs a, b, or c above.

   e. Each student’s choice of courses must be approved by the joint advisory board.
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f. Up to 12 credits of graduate-level Philosophy courses may count, under the School of Law’s regulations, toward the JD degree. Courses for which the student has registered in the Graduate School count toward the 12-credit maximum for outside courses applied toward the JD degree.

g. Research paper (“thesis”): Candidates for the dual degree must write a substantial research paper based upon their own research. Candidates may write a single paper to satisfy both the MA thesis requirement and the JD upper-class writing requirement. The paper must be on a topic accepted by the joint advisory board, and ordinarily it must be supervised by a faculty member appointed by the board. Under appropriate circumstances, however, the board may approve a paper written for publication in a law or philosophy journal to be accepted in lieu of a research paper supervised directly by a faculty member. If the student wishes to fulfill the MA and JD paper requirements with a single paper, then the research paper must provide a balance of philosophical and legal material. The expected minimum length for such a paper is 35 double-spaced pages (with ordinary fonts and margins). If the candidate does not wish to fulfill both requirements with a single paper, then the candidate must fulfill each unit’s paper requirement as provided within each unit.

h. The student need not satisfy the foreign language requirement, though he or she may be advised to do so depending on the nature of the research paper (“thesis”).

4. Duration and Composition of the Course of Studies: the intention behind the program is that the student should be able to satisfy JD and MA requirements concurrently, thus completing the dual degree in three years. Because the Law School prescribes a full-time core curriculum for the first year of study toward the JD, the courses applicable toward the MA must be chosen in the second and third years. In addition to the jurisprudence/legal-theory course described in paragraph 3b above, students must take at least four Philosophy courses towards the dual degree. (See paragraph 3a. above.) One such course in each of the upper-level JD semesters would produce the required four.

D. B.A./M.A.

The purpose of the B.A./M.A. program is to provide exceptional undergraduate students with an opportunity to pursue the study of philosophy in greater depth than is possible within the B.A. major program and to earn a Master’s degree at Boston University before entering a Ph.D. program at another University. The program provides a continuing relationship with a faculty advisor and an opportunity to build up a systematic background in philosophy. However, since it is essentially an extension of the B.A. major program, it is conceived as terminating with the M.A. degree. While the Department is prepared, in exceptional cases, to consider applications for admission to the Ph.D. program from a B.A./M.A. candidate, normally the candidate, having completed his or her undergraduate education and M.A. studies at Boston University, is expected to complete his or her Ph.D. studies at another institution.

1. Application: An undergraduate normally applies for admission to the B.A./M.A. program in the junior year of his or her undergraduate study. The student, with the help of his or her advisor, prepares an application and a proposed program of study, submitting it together with letters of evaluation from instructors in all philosophy
courses he or she had taken during the first five semesters of undergraduate study to
the Committee on Admissions of the Department of Philosophy. Admission to the
Program entitles the student to all prerogatives of graduate students in the
Department. Continuation in the program is subject to maintaining satisfactory
progress in meeting the program’s requirements. Applications are available in Room
112 in the CAS/GRS building. The student should consult with his or her major
professor and prepare a program of study. The student should ask all of the
professors with whom he or she has taken courses in philosophy to send a letter of
evaluation to the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Philosophy, to whom the
student should also bring the
completed application not later than January 30th of the student's junior year.

2. Prerequisites and coursework.

(a) Freshman and Sophomore Years: To be eligible for the B.A./M.A.
program, a student must have completed by the end of the sophomore year, at
least two of PH300 Ancient Philosophy, PH310 Modern Philosophy, PH350
History of Moral Philosophy, or PH360 Logic, with a grade of B or better in
each course. Any of these courses not completed by the end of the sophomore
year must be taken in the junior year.

(b) Junior and Senior Years: During the junior and senior years, the
B.A./M.A. candidate must complete all requirements for a B.A. degree with a
major in philosophy or a philosophy combined major.

(c) the M.A. year: During the M.A. year, the B.A./M.A. candidate must
complete six graduate credit courses and two 900-level directed studies on a
topic selected in consultation with his or her advisor. The two directed studies
courses are intended to provide occasion for the student to write the thesis.
Students who have written an Independent Work for Distinction thesis during
the senior year may, with the permission of his or her advisor, turn that thesis
into a Master's thesis. The B.A./M.A. student will have satisfied logic and
language requirements in the course of majoring in philosophy at Boston
University.


4. Time-limit and residence: All the requirements for the B.A./M.A. must be at the
same time as those for the B.A. degree.

VI. Yearly Evaluation

Each Spring the faculty will review all Ph.D. students. The review may take place in
conjunction with the departmental determinations of or recommendations regarding graduate
financial aid. The review may include a meeting between a student and members of the
faculty. A student may be requested to submit a paper completed during the preceding
semesters, or to submit other information or evidence as to his or her progress and
achievements. After reviewing a student’s progress and performance, the faculty (a) may
permit the student to continue in enrollment, or (b) may require that the student take certain
remedial steps as a condition of continued enrollment, or
(c) may decide that the student must leave the program at the conclusion of the academic
year. Students who have been asked to leave the program may petition the Chair for re-
review by setting forth the reasons why he or she believes that he or she should remain. The
faculty or its designated committee will review the petition and then will decide to confirm,
modify, or reject its prior determination. Both the student’s petition for reconsideration and the faculty’s reconsideration should be conducted in a timely fashion.

VII. Incompletes

Students may take only one “incomplete” per semester. They will have one year (12 months) from the end of the course to complete the work of the course. Upon being petitioned by a student, the Director of Graduate Studies may determine that there are exceptional circumstances at work and that both the “one per semester” and the “one year” limit may be extended.

VIII. Attendance at Colloquia and Similar Events

The philosophy department offers unusually rich and variegated colloquia (these include the colloquium of the Center for Philosophy and History of Science; the colloquium of the Institute for Philosophy and Religion; the Friday Colloquia; and the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy). Faculty often offer informal presentations of their work at the conclusion of departmental meetings. In addition, the Benedict Lectures often treat philosophically of issues in political theory. Attendance and participation in these and similar lectures and events is an intrinsic part of a student’s graduate education. The department expects that every graduate student will attend at least two colloquia a semester for every semester he or she is in residence. Attendance at a larger number is desirable. The Graduate Student Association hosts talks by graduate students, and regular participation in those events by all graduate students is enthusiastically encouraged as well.

IX. Placement

For graduate students who are applying for jobs (hereafter "applicants"), there are a number of steps and procedures that can be extremely useful in the search for teaching positions. A departmental Placement Director (hereafter "PD"), who coordinates a placement seminar each fall and spring, aids applicants in their searches. Applicants should work with the PD according to the schedule below. Students are ordinarily expected to register for the seminar sequence (PH 993, 994) during their first active year on the market if they wish to use the department’s placement resources. Students who are in their first active year on the market but who will not be in residence during one semester or the other should (a) be prepared to register for the two course sequence even though they will not be in residence and (b) be in contact with the PD over the course of the semester to receive materials and coordinate their dossiers on the schedule other enrolled students will follow. The seminar will also be open on an audit basis for both interested students not yet on the market and those who wish to attend in further years beyond their initial enrollment. The Department will not support a student’s job placement effort unless he or she registers for the seminar sequence. The seminar is free of charge for students paying the CSF or who have a fee waiver, pass/fail, and two credits a semester. It does not count toward the credits needed for the PhD degree. The seminar will ordinarily meet weekly, but be more intensive in the fall, when most placement activity occurs. Two kinds of regular meetings will be featured: (1) workshops on specific placement tasks and (2) mock paper presentations by each student which will be critiqued by students and faculty. The series of workshops will be focused on a graduated series of tasks concerned with dossier preparation (cover letter, CV, writings sample, etc.). Additional sessions will involve panels of recently placed graduate students who can offer experienced advice about the travails of the job search. Prospective applicants should make known to the PD as soon as possible (in the preceding spring or summer semesters) their intention to apply for jobs in the Fall and register for the placement seminar. The PD will
then be able to apprise them of the nature of the process of applying for teaching positions. Prospective applicants will be informed of (a) the make-up of a dossier (including CV, letters of recommendation, writing samples, and teaching evaluations), (b) the necessity of assembling such a dossier and drafting a letter of introduction by September, (c) the ways in which the PD and the Department will attempt to support applications throughout the coming year, (d) the ways of determining job openings (e.g., the appearance of *Jobs for Philosophers* in mid-October, mid-November, and late-January), and (e) the kinds of expectations normally held by the institutions to which application is made (e.g., interviews at the APA meetings, course syllabi, on-campus interviews and lectures). Students will also be advised to obtain feedback from advisors on the need for any revisions of writing samples. Preparation for going on the market, in other words, should begin during the summer before the Fall seminar (PH 993). It is a drawn out process!

Each applicant's *curriculum vitae* and accompanying dossier should be approved by the dissertation advisor, and be submitted to the PD by the second week of the seminar to the PD for review as well as, if necessary, for editing. The PD will then seek to meet with each applicant to discuss these and other possible materials to be submitted with the application (e.g., the tailoring of the letter of introduction to the institution receiving it, the writing sample to include with the letter, the areas of specialization and areas of competence to use, and the course syllabi to prepare). At this time the applicant should also make available to the PD any teaching evaluations, reports, and any other information pertinent to the applicant's teaching credentials and experience so that the PD will, if appropriate, be in a position to write a letter summarizing those credentials and that experience. At the earliest possible time, applicants should open an account with INTERFOLIO.

Applicants should consult with the PD and their dissertation advisor about possible positions for which it would be appropriate to apply. These discussions should coincide with the first week after the publication of an issue of *Jobs for Philosophers*. As soon as applications are made to particular institutions, the applicant should provide the PD with a list of those institutions to which s/he is applying. By the middle of November the PD will seek to (a) distribute to the faculty the names of applicants, their areas of specialization and competence, a brief description of their dissertation, and the names of departments and institutions to which they are applying and (b) solicit advice from members of the faculty on how applicants can be best served in their current searches.

The PD will, as appropriate, (a) phone relevant people in the faculties of the departments and institutions to which applicants are applying or (b) see to it that someone in the Boston University department who is in contact with one or more of those relevant people makes the phone call (in order to encourage the interviewing and hiring of the applicant in question). Mock interviews will be conducted in early December and in advance of a scheduled interview at other times during the school year. Applicants who have been invited, as part of the hiring process, to deliver a paper at another institution will be asked to give a “dry run” of the talk as part of the placement seminar.

The PD will make every effort to attend the APA Eastern Division meeting as a means of promoting the applicants, counseling them, and getting any feedback, if possible, from departments who have interviewed them. Ordinarily, the applicant's dissertation director will also attend the APA Eastern Division meeting to assist in the process. Attendance by members of the PD and by the applicant's dissertation director cannot, of course, be guaranteed. The PD, as well as the student’s dissertation advisor and the Department Chair, will be pleased to give counsel when the student negotiates for a position. The Spring semester part of the seminar (PH 994) will in a general way cover, among other issues, offers and negotiations.

While the department will do its best to support its students in their searches for positions,
the ultimate responsibility in this process lies with the student. The student's dissertation director is also expected to play a crucial role in this process. Given the vagaries of the job market, students should also apply for post-doctoral Fellowships. They can provide a very comfortable—and prestigious—transition phase from completion of the doctorate to one’s first job. Many Fellowships have early application deadlines (often, a year in advance). The student is urged to investigate the options during his or her third year of graduate study.

X. Financial Aid

For information concerning financial aid, the student should consult http://www.bu.edu/philo/academics/financial-aid/ and the department’s Director of Graduate Studies.
XI. Checklist

1. Program: __________________________

2. Entered post-BA or post-MA? ______________

3. Date of Admission: ________________

4. Mandatory Date for Completion of Program of Study: ______________

5. Coursework:
   A. Distribution requirements (if relevant):
      (1) Ancient and Medieval _______________________________
      (2) Modern _______________________________
      (3) 20th Century _______________________________
      (4) Theoretical _______________________________
      (5) Practical _______________________________
   B. Number of courses completed _______________________________

6. Logic requirement: date satisfied _______________________________

7. Language requirement: date satisfied _______________________________

8. Qualifying papers: date completed _______________________________

9. Prospectus: date submitted and defended _______________________________

10. Dissertation: date submitted and defended _______________________________
    A. Advisor _______________________________
    B. Dissertation Title _______________________________

11. Registered for two semesters before defense? Yes ______ No ________