Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy houses two doctoral programs: a PhD in Philosophy and an interdisciplinary PhD in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology (PNP). The Philosophy program covers a broad array of philosophy, with particular strengths in ethics, moral psychology, and political philosophy; philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, and metaphysics; and the history of philosophy. The PNP program draws on a core faculty in philosophy and on Washington University's exceptional psychology and neuroscience faculty.

The department accepts about 10 percent of the applicants to these programs and maintains about 25 students in both programs. We are especially open to interdisciplinarity and are committed to providing methodologically and substantively broad philosophical development. Applicants from a wide range of backgrounds are welcome; the most successful applicants have evidence of philosophical talent and promise.

Both programs take at most six years, during which all PhD students are fully supported. The first six or seven semesters are dedicated primarily to courses, which may include independent studies and courses in other programs, such as classics, law, political science, and women’s studies. Students in their first seven semesters must also complete two qualifying papers that bridge the gap between seminar papers and professional publications. In addition, the department houses two dissertation workshops, one required for Philosophy students in their third year and beyond and the other for PNP students in all years. Students in their fourth year finish their third qualifying paper, devise a dissertation prospectus, and defend the prospectus in an oral exam. Then, the fifth year typically offers fellowship support to draft the full dissertation, before a sixth year is given over to revisions, a required colloquium, and job applications.

The department also works hard to prepare its students as teachers and as potential academic job applicants. Students are required to participate in mentored teaching experiences for two of their six years in residence, and may serve as instructor of record for their own courses in University College or Summer School. Placement efforts begin during the first-years’ orientation and intensify in the spring of the student’s fifth year.

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Faculty

Chair

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Chair, Department of Philosophy; Director of Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program
PhD, Rutgers University

Professors

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**Professors Emeriti**

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Jerome P. Schiller
PhD, Harvard University

Joseph S. Ullian
PhD, Harvard University

Richard A. Watson
PhD, University of Iowa

Carl P. Wellman
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Humanities

**Degree Requirements**

**PhD in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology (PNP)**

Successful completion of 72 units of courses and seminars at the 400 level or above (with the exception of Phil 301G Symbolic Logic) in a way that meets both the detailed course requirements and the following minima:

1. 33 units of Philosophy courses
2. 18 units of empirical courses/laboratory experience
3. Participation in the PNP Dissertation Seminar (PNP 501) in semesters when it is offered
4. Regular attendance at Philosophy PNP Colloquia, except with the permission of the director of PNP
5. Successful completion of two qualifying papers
6. Completion of teaching experiences
7. Satisfaction of any colloquium requirement imposed by the department
8. Completion and defense of a dissertation prospectus (typically during the fourth year)
9. Completion and defense of a dissertation

**Additional Information**

For additional information, visit our PNP Graduate Program webpage. Please contact the department for further requirements.

**PhD in Philosophy**

1. Every student must complete the logic requirement, either by passing the exam given during orientation or by receiving
at least a B in Phil 301G Symbolic Logic or Phil 405 Philosophical Logic.

2. Every student must complete at least 42 units of graduate-level (400-level or above) philosophy courses, each with at least a B-. No units can be transferred from other institutions. These units must include the following distribution requirements:
   a. Phil 502 Proseminar in Philosophy, taken in the first semester
   b. at least two additional 500-level seminars
   c. at least two core surveys in theoretical philosophy (Phil 4141 Advanced Epistemology, Phil 4142 Advanced Metaphysics, Phil 4065 Advanced Philosophy of Language, Phil 4210 Topics in Advanced Philosophy of Science)
   d. at least two core surveys in practical philosophy (Phil 4315 Normative Ethical Theory, Phil 4310 20th-Century Metaethics, Phil 4320 British Moralists, Phil 4400 Advanced Social and Political Philosophy)
   e. at least one core survey in ancient philosophy (Phil 451 Plato, Phil 452 Aristotle, Phil 4530 Hellenistic Philosophy)
   f. at least one core survey in modern philosophy (Phil 4550 Continental Rationalism, Phil 4560 Empiricism, Phil 4575 Kant's Moral Theory, Phil 4570 Kant's Critique of Pure Reason)

3. Additional courses or directed research to 72 hours (at the 400 or 500 level; may consist of directed research Phil 591 or additional, germane courses)

4. Completion of teaching experiences

5. Successful completion of two qualifying papers

6. Completion of dissertation requirements

7. Completion of colloquium requirements

Additional Information

For additional information, visit our Philosophy Graduate Program (http://philosophy.artsci.wustl.edu/graduate) webpage. Please contact the department for further requirements.