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 we 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 that is required for Philosophy students in their third year and beyond and the other for PNP students in all years. Students in their fourth year devise a dissertation prospectus and defend the prospectus in an oral exam. The fifth year then typically offers fellowship support for the drafting of 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 they may serve as the instructors of record for their own courses in University College or Summer School. Placement efforts begin during first-year orientation and intensify during 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
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Professors
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Susan E. and William P. Stiritz Distinguished Professor of
Women's Studies
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Professors Emeriti
Lucian W. Krukowski (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/lucian-krukowski)
PhD, Washington University
Jerome P. Schiller (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/jerome-schiller)
PhD, Harvard University
Joseph S. Ullian (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/joe-ullian)
PhD, Harvard University
Richard A. Watson (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/richard-watson)
PhD, University of Iowa
Carl P. Wellman (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/carl-wellman)
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor Emeritus in
the Humanities
PhD, Harvard University

Degree Requirements
PhD in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology
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)
during semesters in which it is offered
4. Regular attendance at Philosophy PNP Colloquia, except
with the permission of the director of PNP
5. Completion of Mentored Teaching Experience (4 semesters)
6. Successful completion of two qualifying papers
7. Satisfaction of 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
(http://pnp.artsci.wustl.edu/graduate) 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 during 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. Completion of Mentored Teaching Experience (4 semesters)

4. Successful completion of two qualifying papers

5. Satisfaction of colloquium requirement imposed by the department

6. Completion and defense of a dissertation prospectus (typically during the fourth year)

7. Completion and defense of a dissertation

**Additional Information**

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