Philosophy

The Washington University Philosophy Department houses two PhD programs: a program in Philosophy — with strengths in philosophy of mind, epistemology, political philosophy, philosophy of science, metaphysics, and the history of philosophy — and a special interdisciplinary program in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology (PNP) that maintains a core faculty in philosophy and draws on Washington University’s exceptional psychology and neuroscience programs.

The department accepts about 10% of the applicants to these PhD programs and maintains about 25 students in both programs. We are especially open to interdisciplinary work, and we are committed to providing methodologically and substantively broad training. We welcome applicants from a wide range of backgrounds, and the most successful applicants have evidence of philosophical talent and promise.

Phone: 314-935-6670
Email: philosophy@wustl.edu
Website: http://philosophy.wustl.edu/graduate-programs

Faculty

Chair
Ron Mallon (http://philosophy.artsci.wustl.edu/people/ron-mallon/)
Chair, Department of Philosophy
Director, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program
PhD, Rutgers University

Professors
Rebecca "Becko" Copenhaver (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/becko-copenhaver/)
Director of Undergraduate Studies
PhD, Cornell University
Carl Craver (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/Carl-F-craver/
PhD, University of Pittsburgh
John Heil (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/john-heil/)
PhD, Vanderbilt University
Jonathan Kvanvig (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/jonathan-kvanvig/)
PhD, University of Notre Dame
Matt McGrath (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/matt-mcgrath/)
PhD, Brown University
Casey O'Callaghan (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/casey-ocallaghan/)
PhD, Princeton University
Anya Plutynski (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/anya-plutynski/)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Paula "Lori" Watson (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/lori-watson/)
PhD, University of Illinois-Chicago
Kit Wellman (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/kit-wellman/)
PhD, University of Arizona

Associate Professors
Anne Margaret Baxley (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/anne-margaret-baxley/)
PhD, University of California, San Diego
Eric Brown (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/eric-brown/)
PhD, University of Chicago
Allan Hazlett (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/allan-hazlett/)
Director of Graduate Studies
PhD, Brown University
Brett Hyde (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/brett-hyde/)
PhD, Rutgers University

Lecturers
Anne Baril (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/anne-baril/)
PhD, University of Arizona
Michael Barkasi
PhD, Rice University
Jason Gardner (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/jason-gardner/)
PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
Nicholas Koziolek (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/nick-koziolek/)
PhD, University of Chicago

McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellows
Amanda Evans (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/amanda-evans/)
PhD, University of Texas at Austin
Mason Westfall (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/mason-westfall/)
PhD, University of Toronto

Professors Emeriti
Dennis Des Chene (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/dennis-des-chene/)
PhD, Stanford University
J. Claude Evans (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/people/claud-evans/)
PhD, State University of New York–Stony Brook
Qualifying Examinations

Each section of Phil 514 Survey Seminar includes a final comprehensive examination taken at the end of the course (but which may be retaken in the event of an unsatisfactory performance). The form of the final comprehensive examination (e.g., written or oral, in-class or take-home) varies and is determined by the instructor. All students must complete six such examinations and obtain a grade of at least a B- on each one; these examination grades are distinct from the course grades for the six semesters of Phil 514 Survey Seminar.

Dissertation Seminar

Starting in the fourth year, for each spring semester in residence, all students must satisfactorily complete Phil 8000 Dissertation Seminar, which is devoted to research training and dissertation project development. (Phil 8000 is a 0-unit course and does not count toward the fulfillment of course work requirements.)

Mentored Teaching Experiences

All students are required to complete four Mentored Teaching Experiences, normally in their second and third years.

Prospectus

All students must successfully defend a dissertation prospectus before a committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom (the “prospectus advisor”) will supervise the preparation of the prospectus and who will normally go on to serve as the dissertation advisor (see below). Normally, students defend their prospectus before the end of their fourth year of study.

A dissertation prospectus states a problem, a response to the problem, a reckoning of how this response contributes to existing philosophical literature, and an overview of the case for the response. The prospectus should be accompanied by a working bibliography. The structure and length of individual prospectuses varies and is to be determined in consultation and collaboration with the prospectus advisor.

The possible outcomes of a prospectus defense are Pass and Fail. Students may make additional attempts in the event of a failed prospectus defense. The prospectus advisor will inform the DGS and the Graduate Program Administrator when a student has successfully defended their prospectus.

Dissertation

All students must defend a dissertation before a committee of at least five people, the chair of which (the “dissertation advisor”) will supervise the preparation of the dissertation. The Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, establishes requirements concerning the composition of the dissertation committees, dissertation defense scheduling, and the nature of the defense itself.
A dissertation is a substantial piece of original philosophical research. The structure and length of individual dissertations varies and is to be determined in consultation and collaboration with the dissertation advisor.

The possible outcomes of a dissertation defense are Pass, Revisions, and Fail. When revisions are required, the dissertation advisor will provide, in writing, a description of what revisions are required and a deadline for revisions that is no more than 3 months after the dissertation defense. When the dissertation is resubmitted, the dissertation advisor will determine if the revisions are satisfactory.

**Master's Degree Requirements**

Students in our PhD programs can receive a Master of Arts once they have completed their required course work and fulfilled the qualifying examinations requirement.