Philosophy (PHIL)

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Degrees Conferred:
M.A., Ph.D. (PHIL)

Areas of Study: History of philosophy (including ancient, medieval, modern, early analytic, and contemporary), metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, social and political philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, continental, and philosophy of science.

Prerequisites to Degree Program: Admission to the program is subject to the approval of the graduate committee of the Department of Philosophy. For the M.A., the normal expectation is 18 hours in philosophy, including logic. Students with fewer hours in philosophy may be admitted with deficiencies. In addition to the materials required by the Graduate School, at least two letters of recommendation, a sample of written work, and GRE aptitude scores (if available) should be submitted to the department chair. For the Ph.D., completion of an M.A. degree in philosophy is required.

Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree: (Min. 33 hours.)

1. 27 total hours of course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better. These hours must include:
   A. Satisfaction of the course distribution requirement, which is as follows: one course each in ancient Greek philosophy, modern philosophy, one history of philosophy course in an area other than ancient Greek and modern philosophy, value theory, and metaphysics/epistemology. Only courses in which the student earns a grade of “B” or better will count towards fulfilling the course distribution requirement. A student may petition the graduate committee to take an exam in one or more of the above areas, which, if passed, would satisfy the distribution requirement for the area(s) in question.
   B. Symbolic Logic I or II with a grade of “C” or better, or equivalent, or exam in symbolic logic.
   C. Six hours of course work in graduate seminars.

2. An acceptable thesis and a successful oral examination before the thesis committee. With the approval of the graduate committee, the oral exam may be taken a second time.

Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree:

1. 24 hours of course work beyond completion of the M.A. in philosophy (with the approval of the graduate committee, up to six hours may be taken in another discipline). Course work beyond the M.A. must satisfy the following conditions:
   A. Only courses in which a “B” or better is earned count toward the 24 hours of course work required for the Ph.D.
   B. Symbolic Logic I or II, or equivalent, or exam in symbolic logic. (This requirement is waived for candidates who have completed the above M.A. program.)
   C. At least nine hours of graduate seminar work in philosophy.
   D. By the time final course work is taken, students must have satisfied course distribution requirements comparable to those for the M.A. degree (1a., above).

2. Reading knowledge of one scholarly language in addition to English. Languages other than French, German, Latin, and classical Greek must be approved by the graduate committee of the Department of Philosophy.

3. Qualifying Examinations:
   A. Comprehensive Exam: The student must pass a comprehensive examination of his or her main area of specialization.
   B. Prospectus Exam: The student must write a dissertation proposal and pass an oral preliminary dissertation examination covering the proposal and the topic of the dissertation.

4. An acceptable dissertation, successfully defended before the dissertation committee.

Through an agreement with the Academic Common Market (http://catalog.uark.edu/archives/2013-14/graduatecatalog/appendixa), residents of certain Southern states may qualify for graduate enrollment in the doctoral program in philosophy as in-state students for fee purposes.