# Graduate Student Handbook

**Philosophy Department**  
**Wayne State University**

(revised Summer 2017)

## For All Graduate Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade Point Average (GPA)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Logic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Credits</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAships)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Financial Aid Possibilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colloquia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The M.A. Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Three Plans</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Requirements</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis and Essay Format</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan of Work</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandfather Clause</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Limits</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The Ph.D. Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Minor</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Review</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logic Requirements</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Distribution Requirements</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Essays</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan of Work</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Applicants and PHI 9990</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Candidate</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Advisory Committee</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Prospectus and Oral Exam</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language Competency</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Dissertation Lecture/Defense</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetables for completion of Ph.D. requirements</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For All Graduate Students

All graduate students in Philosophy, whether in the M.A. or Ph.D. program, are responsible for knowing the rules and policies of the Department, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Graduate School as outlined in these pages and in the current edition of the Graduate Bulletin of Wayne State University.

The force of “must” in what follows is this: If a student fails to do what these rules say he or she must do, that student will be dropped from the program.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Each graduate student, whether in the M.A. or Ph.D. program, must maintain at least a B average (i.e., at least 3.0) to be kept in the graduate program. Students who fall below that average are placed on probation; and if their GPA is not raised within a semester such students will not be allowed to register for any classes.

Failing to maintain a 3.0 is also ground for losing fellowships and teaching assistantships.

Note that while a B equals 3.0, a B-minus equals but 2.67 so B-minuses can put a student on probation. While the department’s requirements for satisfying an area (e.g. Elementary Logic) allow a B-minus to count, the student should keep in mind that this grade is below minimum GPA.

Elementary Logic

Every student, whether admitted to the M.A. or Ph.D. program in Philosophy to begin study September 1988 or later, must fulfill the Elementary Logic Requirement before the third semester of graduate study. A student who does not fulfill the requirement within twelve (12) months after beginning the graduate program will be dropped from the graduate program in philosophy. There are two ways to fulfill the requirement.

Course. A student may fulfill the elementary logic requirement by passing PHI 5050, Advanced Symbolic Logic, with a grade of B-minus or better. PHI 5050 is offered once each year, typically in the Fall Term.

Exam. A student may fulfill the elementary logic requirement by passing the elementary logic exam. The exam is offered in December, April, and August, but only if it is known that there are students who wish to take the exam. It is best, then, to request an elementary logic exam within the first three weeks of the term.

Credits Towards the M.A. and Ph.D.

Graduate course credits that were earned while in the M.A. program may be applied towards the Ph.D. degree, should the student later be admitted to the Doctoral program.
Similarly, course credits earned for the Ph.D. degree may be applied towards the M.A. degree—for example, when a graduate student applies for a Plan C Masters.

However, the same credits may not earn the same degree twice. For example, credits that earned one M.A. (at Wayne State or any other university) may not be applied towards another M.A. at Wayne State University.

**Transfer Credits**

Students may petition the Department to transfer graduate credits earned at another institution. This petition may be granted by the Department in full or in part or not at all. The petition ought to describe for each course requested for transfer:

- College/university where course was taken
- Course name and number
- Credits earned for each course, and whether semester credits or something else
- Grade in the course
- Instructor’s name
- What program (e.g. the M.A. program) the student was enrolled in when course was taken
- A brief description of the course content and books used
- An explanation of any peculiarities: e.g. if non-letter grades were assigned, what do these mean?

Wayne State University has established a minimum number of credits that must be earned “in residence,” i.e. must be Wayne State credits.

- For the M.A. degree, 24 course credits must be earned in residence.
- For the Ph.D. degree, 30 course credits must be earned in residence.

Course credits are credits other than graduate research credits (PHI 7999, 8999, or 999x). Thus no more than 8 credits may be transferred for a Master’s and no more than 30 credits may be transferred for the Ph.D. The Philosophy Department approves all transfer credits, and may at its discretion permit fewer transfer credits than a student requests.

If the Department has approved transfer credits, these are submitted along with the student’s Plan of Work.

**Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAships)**

These awards provide a stipend, assistance for 6-10 credits of graduate tuition per term, and subsidized health insurance coverage. As a GTA, the student spends about 20 hours per week in teaching or related duties. Information concerning all of these awards may be obtained by writing directly to the admissions officer of the philosophy department.
There is a union for GTAs: the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee, associated with the Michigan Federation of Teachers: GEOC/MFT.

GTAs generally begin by assisting with 1000-level Philosophy courses such as PHI 1010 (Introduction to Philosophy), and 1050 (Critical Thinking). They must attend lectures, hold discussion sections and office hours, and grade tests and papers. Sometimes advanced TAs will be given their own course to teach.

On September 30, 1997 the Department adopted the following policy on Graduate Teaching Assistantships:

No GTA can expect to hold his/her GTAship for more than four years. Generally, a GTA can expect to hold a GTAship for four years. However, a graduate student should not presume that appointment to a GTAship is a guarantee of four years of GTA support. At the end of each year of service, each GTA will be reviewed for the purpose of deciding whether his/her GTAship will be renewed. Renewal is conditional upon satisfactory performance as a teacher, satisfactory performance as a graduate student, and satisfactory performance towards his/her degree.

The Department also authorized the following factors for assessing performance:

**Performance as a teacher**
1. Student evaluations of teaching (SETs) will be examined. Low scores (below 5.0) are indications of unsatisfactory performance.
2. Where possible, two faculty whom the student had assisted will be asked for brief written assessments of the student’s work as a GTA. In particular, indications that a GTA has been remiss in holding office hours, meeting discussion sections, or grading exams promptly and accurately will be looked on as indications of unsatisfactory performance.

**Performance as a graduate student and progress towards the degree**
1. Unofficial transcripts will be examined. GPA below 3.0 is a serious indication of unsatisfactory performance.
2. Progress in the doctoral program will be examined. Students who have not met departmental time criteria (e.g. for completing area requirements or for submitting a passing prospectus) will be considered as making unsatisfactory progress towards the doctorate.

**Other Financial Aid Possibilities**

**Part-Time Teaching.** Competent graduate students may be hired to teach courses either on campus or at an extension center. No tuition or fee waivers are included. Consult the departmental chairperson for more information.
Loans. Inquiries about loans or other financial support should be directed to the Scholarship and Financial Aids Office, [http://finaid.wayne.edu/](http://finaid.wayne.edu/).

Colloquia

Papers are often given by members of Wayne’s Philosophy Department or by guest speakers, usually on Thursdays at 4 p.m. Watch email and bulletin boards for announcements. Contemporary philosophy is largely disseminated through papers. Thus the Philosophy Department considers attendance at colloquia to be as vital a part of graduate study as course work and research, and so every effort should be made by each graduate student to attend.
THE M.A. DEGREE

Preface

The M.A. in Philosophy is administered through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). Forms and other information are found at:
http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/CurrentStudents

The Three Plans

Plan A. Fewer courses and a longer thesis than Plan B. Students pursue Plan A with a Master’s Thesis which is like a small Ph.D. dissertation: about 60–120 pages defending an original thesis. The Thesis must be approved by a committee of three (the student’s principal advisor and two additional faculty members); and the student must pass an oral exam defending the Thesis administered by that committee of three.

Plan B. More courses and a shorter essay than Plan A. Plan B requires a Master’s Essay which is shorter (about 30–60 pages) and can be considered to be rather like a long term paper done for a graduate seminar. The Essay must be approved by at least two faculty members: the student’s principal advisor and a second reader. (A third reader may be invited by the advisor.)

Whether students pursue the M.A. via Plan A or Plan B is in part up to themselves; but students must get approval of a regular full-time member of the Philosophy faculty who agrees to serve as principal advisor. It should be recognized that faculty serve as advisors (or not) at their discretion; that a faculty member may refuse to be advisor to a Thesis (while possibly agreeing to advise an Essay); and that a faculty member may refuse to advise a Thesis or Essay on a certain topic.

Plan C. The Plan C Master’s degree is an option only for students in the Ph.D. program. It is intended to acknowledge a student’s accomplishments in completing requirements for Ph.D. candidacy and to enhance the student’s job and salary prospects before completion of the dissertation.

Distribution Requirements

Plan A and Plan B. (1) As noted earlier (under “Elementary Logic”), all graduate students must fulfill the Elementary Logic Requirement before the third semester of graduate study. (2) In addition, Plan A and Plan B M.A. students must take at least one course from each of the following groups: (i) History of Philosophy, (ii) Theory of Value, and (iii) Philosophical Problems. (The members of these groups are listed on the departmental website under “Courses”: http://clas.wayne.edu/Philosophy/Courses.) (3)
Plan A and Plan B students must also take at least two 7000-level seminar courses (these courses can also satisfy requirement (2)).

**Plan C.** Plan C M.A. students must satisfy all Logic requirements and pass both “Preliminary Essay Examinations” for the Ph.D. degree. These are discussed under “The Ph.D. Degree” below.

The requirements for the three Plans are summarized in the following chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>• Plan A • (Thesis)</th>
<th>• Plan B • (Essay)</th>
<th>• Plan C • (Ph.D. students only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Requirements</td>
<td>Distribution Requirements</td>
<td>Distribution Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24 course credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>28 course credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>32 course credits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8 credits of PHI 8999</strong> Master’s Thesis Direction.</td>
<td><strong>4 credits of PHI 7999</strong> Master’s Essay Direction.</td>
<td>Satisfy all Ph.D. Prelim Essay and all Logic Requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Thesis, approved by a three person committee, and defended in an oral exam.</td>
<td>An Essay, approved by its principal advisor and at least one other faculty member.</td>
<td>No Essay or Thesis required for Plan C Masters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>32 credits total.</strong></td>
<td><strong>32 credits total.</strong></td>
<td><strong>32 credits total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis and Essay Format**

Final copies of Theses and Essays must be printed (or typed) in accordance with the formatting requirements of the college and university.

For formatting requirements for the Master’s Essays see: [http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/CurrentStudents](http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/CurrentStudents).

For formatting requirements for the Master’s Thesis see: [http://gradschool.wayne.edu/phd-info/complete_format_guidelines.pdf](http://gradschool.wayne.edu/phd-info/complete_format_guidelines.pdf)

See Kate Turabian *et al.*, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers and Theses* (currently on the 8th ed.) on how to handle scholarly apparatus such as references.
It is the responsibility of students to make sure their committee receives copies of theses and essays; and students should make sure that there is a copy of their final approved version for the department library.

**Plan of Work**

A Plan of Work, available through the CLAS Graduate Office, and on the web (here), is a document on which students lists the courses they have taken or will take towards the M.A. degree (including PHI 7999 or 8999). Transfer credits, if any, are listed on the Plan of Work, which is submitted along with another form “Transfer Credits.” The Plan of Work also indicates which plan (A, B, or C) the student will pursue.

The CLAS Graduate Office recommends that a student in the Master’s program file a Plan of Work after 12 graduate credits have been earned. In any event, a Plan of Work must be filed before the student can have a Thesis or Essay approved.

Students in the doctoral program who fulfill the requirements for a Plan C Master’s file a Plan of Work with the CLAS Graduate Office, indicating that they wish to pursue a Plan C Master’s.

**Grandfather Clause**

Students who entered the M.A. program September 2013 through January 2017, and only they, have the option of completing their degree under the requirements in force as of September 2013.

**Graduation**

In order to receive the M.A. degree in a given term the student must “apply for graduation” near the beginning of that term. Applying for graduation asserts that the student expects to complete all requirements for the M.A. by the deadline established by the graduate office (usually about six weeks into the term). If a student fails to complete all requirements during that term, he or she must reapply for graduation in the following term (or whenever the student actually expects to finish).

**Time Limits**

Students in any Master’s program at WSU have a six-year time limit beginning with the end of the first semester of the student’s first graduate course in the program. Each student has six and one-half years to finish all requirements for the Master’s degree. No “part-time” status is recognized. Thus, a student’s clock keeps running even if that student is not taking courses towards the degree.
THE PH.D. DEGREE

Overview

In order to complete the degree of doctor of philosophy in philosophy, the student must do the following, each of which is described in further detail below:

• Earn 60 course credits distributed according to requirements below.
• Pass all logic requirements (Elementary and Advanced Logic)
• Pass all course distribution requirements (history, value theory, metaphysics-epistemology)
• Pass all Preliminary Essays
• Submit an acceptable Dissertation Prospectus and pass an oral exam on it
• Complete the Foreign Language Competency (if applicable)
• Complete four consecutive semesters of Candidate Status (PHI 9991, 9992, 9993, 9994), each of which is worth 7.5 credits
• Write an acceptable Doctoral Dissertation and pass a Public Lecture/Defense of it

Credits

Every student needs a minimum of 90 graduate credits to earn a Ph.D. More specifically:

• A minimum of 30 course credits at the 7000 level.
• 30 additional graduate course credits (courses numbered 5000 and above).
• 30 credits earned in four consecutive Candidate Status semesters (PHI 9991, 9992, 9993, 9994) after candidacy has been approved. Each semester will be billed at a rate of 7.5 graduate credits.

“Cognate” or “Minor” Courses

The Ph.D. program in Philosophy allows but does not require that the student take “cognate” courses. These are graduate courses (at the 5000 level and above) taken in a department other than Philosophy and preferably related to the student’s dissertation interests. No more than 3 cognate courses will be allowed to count towards the Ph.D. in Philosophy.

Annual Review
The Graduate School mandates that each doctoral student receive an annual written review describing the student’s progress through and status within the program.

The student may offer corrections to this review. The student must sign the annual review.

**Logic Requirements**

There are two parts to the graduate logic requirements: Elementary Logic and Advanced Logic.

1. **Elementary Logic.** This is described in the first section, *The Graduate Program*. All Ph.D. students must pass the elementary logic requirement by the end of their first year of graduate study or be dropped from the graduate program.

2. **Advanced Logic.** This must be satisfied by the end of the student’s fourth year of graduate study. The Advanced Logic requirement may be satisfied by passing PHI 5350 Logical Systems I with a grade of B-minus or better or by exam. The Advanced Logic Exam will be administered twice a year, near the end of each semester, but only if a student requests that exam.

   The Philosophy Department has prepared a stock of questions from which particular Advanced Logic exams will be drawn. The questions cover such topics as: acquaintance with and ability to use metatheorems sufficient to yield proofs of consistency, completeness, independence of axioms and deduction theorems in propositional logic, and to outline such proofs in predicate logic; intuitive set theory, including the concepts of union, intersection, complement, ordered pair, function, and relation; familiarity with Russell’s paradox and other paradoxes of set theory, and the major methods extant for dealing with them; Church’s Thesis and Church’s Theorem on the undecidability of the first-order predicate calculus; Gödel’s incompleteness theorem; and Cantor’s theorem.

**Course Distribution Requirements**

In order to test knowledge of the core areas of philosophy and to assess whether a student can write a competent doctoral dissertation in philosophy, the department insists that all doctoral students take a certain number of courses in these three areas:

1. History of Philosophy
2. Value Theory
3. Metaphysics and Epistemology (M&E)

(1) Students must take at least three graduate-level courses in M&E. (2) Students must also take at least two History courses, one of which must be in Ancient Philosophy and
A course may not “count double”; e.g., a course on Aristotle’s metaphysics will not count as both M&E and History.

**Preliminary Essays**

Students in the Ph.D. program are required to submit two (2) passing Preliminary Essays (Prelims). A passing Prelim must be an original research paper of a quality commensurate with the student’s progress through the program. Prelim Essays are permitted, but by no means required, to be revisions of or improvements on a prior, excellent term paper or Master’s Thesis (Plan A) or Essay (Plan B). (In no case will a Master’s Thesis or Essay count automatically as a passing Prelim.)

Prelims are evaluated by a committee of three faculty members, one of whom is the chair. The student should seek out a faculty member willing to read a Prelim on the student’s proposed topic and to serve as Chair of the grading committee. That faculty member should then organize a committee of two other readers. If the student cannot find a faculty member willing to read a Prelim on the student’s proposed topic, the student should pick another topic.

A submitted Prelim will receive one of three grades: Pass, Fail, and Rewrite. A grade of Fail on a Prelim means that the student is dropped from the Ph.D program. A grade of Rewrite means that although the Essay did not pass outright, the committee thinks that it can be improved to a passing state. A student who receives this grade must revise the Prelim.

The committee will return Prelim submissions within 1 month of receiving them, with written comments similar to a journal referee report. If revisions are requested, as they typically are, it is very important for the student to address the comments in the revised version of the Prelim, while also being careful not to introduce new problems.

Prelims are to be submitted and revised in accord with the following schedule. (‘Semesters of instruction’ are Fall and Winter semesters; a ‘year in the Ph.D. program’ includes Summer semesters as well.)

First Prelim:
(i) submitted by the end of the student’s 2nd year (including Spring/Summer semesters) in the Ph.D program;
(ii) passed by the end of the 5th semester of instruction in the Ph.D program.
Second Prelim:
(i) submitted by the end of the student’s 3rd year (including Spring/Summer semesters) in the Ph.D program;
(ii) passed by the end of the 7th semester of instruction in the Ph.D program.

For illustration of this schedule, see the concluding section below, “Timetables for Completion of Ph.D. requirements”. For students who enter the program in the Fall semester of calendar year X, the schedule has the effect that the first Prelim must be submitted by the end of the Summer semester of calendar year X + 2, and passed by the end of the Fall semester of calendar year X + 2.

Note that this schedule reflects the maximum allowable time for submission and passing of a Prelim. Students are allowed to submit a Prelim earlier than the time at which they are required to have submitted one (though it is inadvisable to submit two Prelims in the same term). Students should do their best to ensure that any Prelim they submit is of sufficient quality to receive a grade of Pass. Before submission of a Prelim, students should discuss and receive advice regarding drafts of papers they intend to submit from the faculty member whom they intend to ask to chair the committee for that Prelim.

Course work may not be substituted for a Prelim Essay.

There are no distribution requirements for Prelims: both of a student’s Prelims may be in ethics, both in metaphysics, etc. That said, before choosing a topic for the second Prelim, students must consult with the chair of the committee to ensure that the topic of the second Prelim does not substantially overlap with that of the first. (There is still a distribution requirement for coursework.)

The exact day for the submission of the prelim essay will be established by the committee organized to read that particular essay, though the submission day should not deviate too much from the “beginning” or “end” of a semester.

**Grandfather Clause**

Students who entered the Ph.D. program September 2013 through January 2017, and only they, have the option of completing their degree under the requirements in force as of September 2013.

**Plan of Work**

A Plan of Work is a form listing all courses past, present, and future that a student will submit for the Ph.D. degree. A Plan of work should be submitted before 40 graduate credits are earned. (Since there will be some predicting of courses to be taken, a Plan of Work may be amended after submission.) Any transfer credits approved by the
Department accompany a Plan of Work (on a Transfer of Credits form). A Plan of Work must be approved both by the Philosophy Department and by the Graduate School. Plans of Work, including a Transfer of Credits form, may be found at: https://wayne.edu/gradschool/phd/forms/

Ph.D. Applicants and PHI 9990

A student in the doctoral program is initially an “Applicant”. Ph.D. Applicants without any PHI 9999 credits who wish to register for pre-Doctoral Candidate research will not be permitted to register for 9999 credits. Instead they will register for PHI 9990. Registration of up to 12 credits will be permitted in 9990. This course will not substitute for any of the Candidate Status (9991-4) registrations.

Ph.D. Candidate

A Ph.D. applicant will be advanced to the rank of Ph.D. “Candidate” by the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the department and completion of the following requirements:

1. Approval of the Plan of Work by the Graduate School
2. Completion of at least fifty credits of course work, as required by the Plan of Work
3. Satisfactory completion of the course distribution areas of Value Theory, History of Philosophy, Metaphysics/Epistemology; satisfactory completion of all Logic requirements.
4. Passing all Preliminary Essays
5. Identification of the membership of the student’s dissertation advisory committee. (The Advisory Committee membership may be changed prior to submission of an approved prospectus without notification of the Graduate School.)

Once the student has been advanced to candidacy, he or she begins the PHI 9991-4 four semester sequence. A student is considered withdrawn from the Ph.D. program if he or she fails to register for any of the required four consecutive semesters beginning with the term following the advancement to Ph.D. Candidate.

Candidate Maintenance Status (PHI 9995) will be available to Candidates following enrollment in the four semesters of Candidate Status if they have not completed their dissertation and defense and if they are using University resources (e.g. the library) during a semester. Fee for Maintenance status will be the registration fee plus the omnibus fee for one credit hour.

Dissertation Advisory Committee
The Dissertation Committee shall consist minimally of three major departmental members plus one extra-departmental member. The expertise of the extra-departmental member must be appropriate to the student’s dissertation work. At least two committee members, including the dissertation director, must hold regular Graduate Faculty appointments.

Dissertation Prospectus and Oral Exam

After completing the course distribution requirements and passing all Preliminary Essays, the next major step in the Ph.D. program is the Dissertation Prospectus. A doctoral student must submit a written Prospectus and complete an oral exam on it. This exam is given by the student’s dissertation committee. The Dissertation Prospectus must be submitted by the end of the second semester (including the Spring/Summer semester) of the student’s fourth year in the Ph.D. program, and the oral exam must be passed by the end of the first semester of instruction of the student’s 5th year. (For illustration of this requirement, see the “Timetables for Completion of Ph.D. requirements” section below.

The student is reminded that the Graduate School requires that a Plan of Work be submitted before taking the written and oral qualifying examination.

The Dissertation Prospectus should be a general description of the problem to be investigated in the dissertation, along with a proposed solution. It must include a bibliography that takes into account the relevant literature on the problem. As a rule of thumb, the Prospectus should be roughly 10–20 double-spaced, typewritten pages in length, excluding the bibliography.

Some dissertation advisors may require more: one or more chapters, or drafts of chapters, in addition to the Prospectus, for example.

The dissertation proposal can be rejected by the student’s dissertation committee. No oral exam will be administered until the committee is satisfied with the proposal.

When the oral exam has been passed, the student must submit the Prospectus along with a Prospectus Form to the Graduate School. This form can be found at: https://wayne.edu/gradschool/phd/forms/

This form, once approved by the Graduate School, establishes the student’s dissertation topic and committee. Any future changes in the committee must receive graduate school approval.

Doctoral Dissertation
The Doctoral Dissertation in Philosophy should be an original piece of research. The Department expects the Dissertation to conform to high standards of clarity and argumentation. The Graduate School expects the Dissertation to have a precise format: https://wayne.edu/gradschool/phd/format/

**Foreign Language Competency**

Graduate students in the Ph.D. program are expected to acquire competency in a foreign language if (but only if) their dissertation advisor requires it.

If required, competence in the foreign language must be satisfied before the student will be permitted to take on the Public Lecture/Defense of his or her dissertation.

The Foreign Language Competency may be satisfied by any of the following means:

1. Satisfactory performance on an ETS examination in the language. The passing scores are 480 in French and 450 in German. Such an examination must be passed no more than seven years prior to the student's request to be certified as having met this requirement.
2. Satisfactorily completing two years of college course work in the foreign language in question. The date of the student's credit for the last of that work may not be more than seven years prior to the student's request to be certified as having met this requirement. **Students who believe they have met this condition should inform the graduate advisor immediately.**
3. Special examination in the foreign language in question, administered by the faculty of the Philosophy Department or its delegated representative.

The Philosophy Department reserves the right to require additional work in foreign language if such work is deemed relevant to the student's dissertation.

**Public Dissertation Lecture/Defense**

Students must be registered for the semester in which they defend the dissertation.

Before a Public Dissertation Lecture/Defense is scheduled, the student’s committee should have read and approved the dissertation. Approval is indicated by signing Part 1 of the Final Report form.

The Public Dissertation Lecture/Defense is as its name suggests: a public procedure in which the student gives a short lecture (10–20 minutes—the student’s advisor can stipulate the time-limit) on the dissertation project, after which the student’s dissertation committee questions the student. Audience members may be invited to comment or ask questions. Students pass or fail the Lecture/Defense. The student’s committee may also require minor revisions in the dissertation after the examination. The defense is overseen
by a “Graduate Examiner”. This is typically the student’s advisor, though the student may request that the Graduate School appoint an external Examiner.

Two final signed copies of the dissertation are to be submitted to the Graduate School within ten calendar days after the Lecture/Defense. The Ph.D. degree will be certified only upon receipt of these two copies and the reconciliation of the student’s Plan of Work and transcripts.

**Timetables for completion of Ph.D. requirements**

The Graduate School stipulates that students have **seven years** to complete all requirements. All Ph.D. students fall under this stricture. The Graduate School does not recognize a “part-time” status in the sense that students who choose not to take courses for some period of time still come under the seven year time limit. The following two timetables (A & B) illustrate the requirements and time-limits for some important events in the Ph.D. program.

### Timetable A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By the...</th>
<th>The student must have ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of second year</td>
<td>Satisfied elementary logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of second year (incl. Summer)</td>
<td>Submitted Preliminary Essay #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of 5th semester of instruction</td>
<td>Passed Preliminary Essay #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of third year (incl. Summer)</td>
<td>Submitted Preliminary Essay #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of 7th semester of instruction</td>
<td>Passed Preliminary Essay #2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| End of 2nd semester (incl. Summer), fourth year | • Completed all course distribution requirements  
• Satisfied Advanced Logic  
• Submitted the Dissertation Prospectus |
| End of 1st semester of instruction, fifth year | Passed the oral exam on the Dissertation Prospectus |
| End of seven years                 | • Satisfied the Foreign Language Competence (if applicable)  
• Completed four semesters of Candidate Status  
• Written an acceptable Doctoral Dissertation |
• Passed the Public Dissertation Lecture/Defense

**Timetable B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Ph.D Program</th>
<th>Required Event</th>
<th>Time-line: students entering in Fall</th>
<th>Time-line: students entering in Winter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fall1</td>
<td>Winter1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Winter1</td>
<td>Summer1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Summer1</td>
<td>Fall1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass elementary logic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fall2</td>
<td>Winter2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Winter2</td>
<td>Summer2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Summer2</td>
<td>Fall2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Prelim #1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall3</td>
<td>Winter3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pass Prelim #1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Winter3</td>
<td>Summer3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Summer3</td>
<td>Fall3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Prelim #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fall4</td>
<td>Winter4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pass Prelim #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Winter4</td>
<td>Summer4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Submit Prospectus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Summer4</td>
<td>Fall4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fall5</td>
<td>Winter5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass Prospectus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pass Public Defense of Dissertation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>