

Graduate Studies Calendar

The Graduate Studies Calendar is published once a year by the Graduate Studies Office. The Calendar provides official information about the organization of graduate studies, graduate academic programs, related policies and regulations, academic deadlines and services for students, as well as general information about the University.

Other Graduate Studies Office Publications

The Graduate Studies Office also publishes the following guidelines and brochures:

- Graduate Studies Recruitment Brochure
- Organization of Graduate Studies
- The Supervisory Process: A Guide for Faculty and Graduate Studies
- Guide for Chairing a PhD Thesis Examination
- Thesis Regulations
- Guidelines on Graduate Student Support

Faculty of Arts

Philosophy

Philosophy

Contact information

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Programs

The Department offers graduate instruction leading to the MA and PhD degrees. In each program emphasis is placed both on the attainment of a substantial degree of competence in major areas of Philosophy, and on acquisition of research skills necessary for independent scholarship.

The Department maintains a low student-to-faculty ratio and encourages contact between students and faculty both through the design of the program (see the description of the second, or "area", phase of the PhD program), and by various activities it sponsors. These include a vigorous colloquium series that has brought many well-known philosophers to the campus, and many less formal gatherings arranged by faculty and students. Departmental physical surroundings; a library, meeting and seminar rooms, and student offices located among those of the faculty; also contribute to the pattern of frequent interaction.

The Department maintains an active teaching internship program for teaching assistants which leads in stages from smaller assignments to the independent teaching of an undergraduate course or course segment.

Financial Assistance

The Department currently offers Teaching Assistantships of \$11,368 per year to incoming graduate students. In addition, there is a Scholarship program which normally offers \$3,000 per year to incoming students with an overall average of at least 80% (83), subject to availability. These Scholarships are normally tenable for the duration of program time limits, provided the incoming average is maintained. The Department also has funds to allocate in the form of one-year Endowment Scholarships to qualified students. It is not necessary to apply for these awards.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Scholarships and Fellowships as well as Ontario Graduate Scholarships are tenable for graduate study at the University of Waterloo. Students who wish to apply for these awards should complete the application forms available at the university they are currently attending. Newly accepted graduate students will be informed by the Department about the support that may

be available to them.

Research Areas

- **Areas of Research**
Currently, the areas of active research in the Department of Philosophy are: Cognitive Science and Philosophy of Mind, History of Philosophy, and Logics, Epistemology & Metaphysics

Post-graduate Programs

Master of Arts

Admission Requirements

Students are accepted on the basis of the following criteria: (1) performance in undergraduate work, especially in philosophy; (2) recommendations of previous instructors; and (3) quality of written work submitted with the application. It is required that a paper demonstrating philosophical attainment be submitted with applications; an undergraduate course or seminar paper, or a Bachelor's Thesis will serve the purpose.

Academic Background of Applicants:

a) From Normal Undergraduate Programs in Philosophy.

The normal background for MA students is that provided by the four-year Honours BA at Waterloo. The core courses in the program are in the fields of Epistemology and Metaphysics (where students select at least three from a variety of upper year courses in these fields), Logic (Philosophy 240, Introduction to formal Logic, plus at least one of a selection of other upper year logic courses), Ethics (Phil 221, History of Ethics, and Phil 322, Contemporary Ethical Theory) and History of Philosophy (200A/B, survey courses in Ancient and Medieval and in Modern Western philosophy, plus at least one other upper year history course). Students with deficiencies in these areas may be required to take specific courses in order to rectify them, either in addition to or as part of their regular graduate program. In the case of the logic requirement the student must have facility with classical quantificational logic and its basic metatheory.

Foreign students with qualifications judged to be equivalent to a Canadian Honours BA in philosophy are normally admitted to full graduate student status, but may be required to take certain specific courses in order to rectify deficiencies in background, either as part of or in addition to their regular graduate program.

Proof of competency in English (if applicable). A score of at least 600 (250 on the computerized version) is required in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and 4.0 in the TWE. (See Academic Regulations - Competency in English for other

acceptable tests of English.)

b) From a Canadian General BA or Equivalent Program.

Students admitted with the three-year Canadian general BA degree or its equivalent will be as qualifying students. A qualifying student is admitted to graduate status but not to a degree program. The qualifying year is a year of work approximately equivalent to the fourth year of an honours program. Students who do well during that year are eligible for admission to full degree status.

c) From Undergraduate Programs in fields other than Philosophy.

Students with an Honours Bachelor's degree or its equivalent in some field other than philosophy may be considered for admission as transitional students. Each transitional student will be required to complete a program of up to five one-term graduate or undergraduate courses, to be specified in writing at the time the student is recommended for admission, in addition to the usual requirements of the MA program. A transitional student is admitted directly into the MA program and is eligible for financial assistance.

Course Work Option

For the Course Work option students must complete:

- Philosophy 680 A/B (the Departmental Graduate Seminar);
- three one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course) at least one of which is a Philosophy 674 course;
- and three Directed Research courses (Philosophy 696). The three Directed Research courses involve writing research papers under the supervision of three different members of the department. The choice of subjects is not restricted in advance, but must be agreed to by the student's supervisor and by the Graduate Officer. Students with special interests may take one of these courses with a member of another department if they have received approval from the Graduate Officer.

To be granted the MA degree, students must complete 680A/B and the three one-term courses required for the MA degree with a 78% average with at least one mark in the 80-100% range. The grade requirement for the three Phil 696 research courses in lieu of a thesis is no mark lower than 78% with at least one in the 80-100% range.

Thesis Option

For the Thesis option students must complete:

- Philosophy 680A/B (the departmental Graduate Seminar);
- three one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course) at least one of which is a Philosophy

674 course;

- one Directed Research course (Phil 696),
- plus an MA thesis.

The Directed Research course will normally be taken with the thesis supervisor, and will involve research leading to the production of the thesis. Students wishing to take this option should have decided on their topic by mid-year.

To be granted the MA degree, students must complete Phil 680A/B and the three one-term courses required for the MA degree with a 78% average with at least one mark in the 80-100% range. The grade requirement for PHIL 696, the preparatory research course for the thesis, is a mark no lower than 78%. The thesis must be accepted by a committee made up of the thesis supervisor and two other members of the department, to be selected in consultation with the Graduate Officer.

Doctor of Philosophy

Admission Requirements

Students with an MA in Philosophy or its equivalent are normally eligible for admission to the PhD program. If the MA was earned at another university the student may be required to take one or two one-term courses (0.5 unit weight) before proceeding with the qualification area stage of the program.

The minimum requirements for admission to the PhD program normally include:

- three letters of recommendation, normally from academic sources
- It is strongly recommended that a paper demonstrating philosophical attainment be submitted with applications. (An undergraduate course or seminar paper, or a Bachelor's thesis, may be used for this purpose.)
- a statement of interest
- proof of competency in English (if applicable). A score of at least 600 (250 on the computerized version) is required in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and 4.0 on the TWE. (See Academic Regulations - Competency in English for other acceptable tests of English.)

Degree Requirements

A) Course work:

The student selects the Research Areas in consultation with the Graduate Officer, and in each is assigned a faculty member who determines the program in that Area. The department must approve the student's choice of Research Areas. While it is possible to do an Area in one of the traditional divisions of philosophy (e.g., Metaphysics, Ethics, Logic or History of Philosophy), they will normally be on a more specific

topic (e.g., Theories of Meaning and Mental Content, Theories of Human Rights, Theories of Truth, Plato's Later Dialogues). Faculty members in charge of Areas are free to assign readings, require the taking or auditing of relevant courses, assign papers, and so on, and also examine the student as they see fit—orally, by formal examination, on the basis of papers, etc. See the handbook Graduate Program in Philosophy .

To be admitted to the thesis proposal stage, students must complete these requirements with an average of 83% in the seminars, courses and Research Areas, with no mark lower than 75%. Students are expected to complete their seminars, course work and research areas during the first two years of their doctoral studies.

B) Thesis Proposal:

Upon completion of their courses and Research Areas, students are admitted to the thesis proposal stage. They should then undertake discussions with a member of the Department and invite that person to be supervisor of their doctoral thesis, and should consult with the Graduate Officer concerning the formation of their thesis committee. Students will then complete a dissertation prospectus. The thesis committee examines the student about the prospectus as they see fit, though normally in an oral exam. The committee may pass the proposal; pass it with revisions; require the student to revise the proposal for re-examination; or they may reject the proposal and require the student to withdraw from the program.

C) Thesis:

Upon successful defence of the Dissertation Prospectus, students proceed to the thesis stage. The PhD degree is awarded after the thesis has been successfully defended in a public meeting and three copies of the thesis have been deposited in the Graduate Studies Office.

Normal time line for completion of the PhD:

- Yr 1: Fall and Winter: Three one-term courses, plus departmental seminar. Summer: begin first Research Area.
- Yr 2: Departmental seminar, complete Research Areas.
- Yr 3: Within 6 months, write and defend dissertation proposal.
- This leaves 18 months to complete and defend the dissertation within 4 years of beginning the PhD program.

Students will normally complete Grad Studies 901—Preparing for University Teaching I in the first year. (Completion of this course is required before students are eligible to teach courses independently for the department.) The department recommends that students who intend to pursue a career in a university also complete Grad Studies 902 in the second year and

Grad Studies 903 in the third year.

Complete the department graduate seminar 680A/B in each of the first two years of the program. The seminar is a graduate level survey course intended to acquaint students with a number of topics under active investigation in the philosophical literature in a specific area of philosophy. The topics covered will vary from year to year, so students will not study the same material twice.

Complete three one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course) at least one of which is a Philosophy 674 course;

Complete two Research Areas (Phil 698), each supervised by a different member of the department. The intention is that each Research Area will prepare the student to make a research contribution in a particular area of philosophy. One of the Areas will normally cover the subject in which the student intends to write a dissertation.

Department Faculty

- **Tim A. Kenyon**
(Associate Professor, Department Chair)
BA (British Columbia), MA (Carleton), PhD (Western Ontario)
- **David DeVidi**
(Associate Professor, Associate Chair and Graduate Officer)
BA (Carleton), MA, PhD (Western)
- **Brian Orend**
(Associate Professor, Associate Chair of Undergraduate Affairs)
BA (Waterloo), MA, PhD (Columbia University, New York)
- **Lawrence L. Haworth**
(Distinguished Professor Emeritus)
BA (Rollins), MA, PhD (Illinois), FRSC
- **Paul Thagard, University Research Chair**
(Professor)
BA (Saskatchewan), BA (Cambridge), MA, PhD (Toronto)
- **Chris Eliasmith**
(Associate Professor)
B.A., M.A. (Waterloo), Ph.D. (Washington U.)
- **Richard H. Holmes**
(Associate Professor)
BA, MA (Montana), PhD (Washington), Recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award
- **Joseph A. Novak**
(Associate Professor)
BA (DePaul), PhD (Notre Dame)
- **Lorraine Besser-Jones**
(Assistant Professor)
BA (Tulane), MA, PhD (North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- **Colin Farrelly**

(Assistant Professor)
BA MA (McMaster) PHD (Bristol)

- **D. L. Fraser**
(Assistant Professor)
PhD (University of Pittsburgh), B.Phil (University of Oxford), B.SC (University of Western Ontario)
- **Richard A. Nutbrown**
(Assistant Professor)
BA (Bishop's), MA, PhD (Carleton)
- **Patricia Marino**
(Assistant Professor)
BA (Wesleyan), MA (State University of New York, Buffalo), PhD (California, Irvine)
- **Steven Weinstein**
(Assistant Professor)
MA & PhD (Northwestern)
- **E. Jennifer Ashworth**
(Adjunct Professor)
BA, MA (Cambridge), PhD (Bryn Mawr), FRSC
Retired
- **Rolf A. George**
(Adjunct Professor)
MA, PhD (Michigan State) (retired)
- **Brian P. Hendley**
(Adjunct Professor)
BA (Marquette), MA, PhD (Yale)
- **James R. Horne**
(Adjunct Professor)
BA, MA (Western Ontario), BTh (Huron), PhD (Columbia) (retired)
- **Angus Kerr-Lawson**
(Adjunct Professor)
BA (Toronto), MA (Chicago), PhD (McMaster)
(retired)
- **Jan F. Narveson**
(Adjunct Professor)
BA (Chicago), MA, PhD (Harvard), FRSC
- **William R. Abbott**
(Adjunct Associate Professor)
BA (Kenyon), PhD (Ohio State)
- **James Van Evra**
(Adjunct Associate Professor)
BA (Valparaiso) MA PHD (Michigan State)