

PHILOSOPHY - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

The MA in Philosophy is intended to provide students with:

- A solid foundation in all the core areas of philosophy, including its history, in preparation for more advanced and specialized work at the doctoral level.
- Philosophical training for those who intend to go on to work in interdisciplinary areas bordering with philosophy, such as cognitive science or applied ethics and public policy.
- An opportunity for those who wish to explore more advanced study of philosophy for personal enrichment and satisfaction.
- The education needed for teaching philosophy at the secondary school level or at a community college.

We offer to MA students not only an outstanding education in philosophy but also all the benefits of being in a large, active, collegial department, with numerous colloquia, conferences, workshops, and reading groups in many areas of philosophy. MA students enroll in the same classes as PhD students, and are treated as full members of the graduate program.

Master's degree students do not typically receive guaranteed departmental funding, but in recent years most master's students have received teaching assistantships (TA-ships) in some of their semesters in the program. (TA-ships come with both a stipend and a tuition waiver.) The department also has a fellowship specifically for MA students, the Wille Fellowship, which is awarded each semester to a first-year MA student to help defray the costs of tuition. MA students are encouraged to apply through the university for financial aid and university scholarships (for more information, see the Funding (<https://www.colorado.edu/philosophy/graduate/funding/>) webpage).

All domestic graduate students qualify for in-state tuition (<https://www.colorado.edu/bursar/costs/>) after just one year of residency in Colorado (<https://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/state-residency/adult/>). Applicants admitted to the MA program who are not residents of Colorado or of any of the Western states might consider petitioning to defer their enrollment for one year, during which time they can establish residency in Colorado, in order to avoid paying out-of-state tuition.

The Department of Philosophy at the University of Colorado Boulder is a member of the Western Regional Graduate Program (<http://wiche.edu/wrgp/>) (WRGP) which means that students from the Western states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming) can enroll in our MA program at in-state Colorado tuition rates (<http://bursar.colorado.edu/tuition-fees/tuition-and-fees-rate-sheets/>). Students need not demonstrate financial need to take advantage of this benefit. To be considered for the WRGP tuition rate, students simply apply directly to our program and identify themselves as WICHE WRGP applicants. WRGP students must fulfill all of our usual requirements for admission, meet all admission deadlines, and be selected for admission.

Students in the master's program must satisfy a variety of requirements, including the completion of coursework. The department has a diversified faculty that can supervise the writing of master's theses on a wide range of topics. There is also a popular non-thesis option for the MA.

Students considering both our PhD and MA program should apply to the PhD program. Applicants not accepted to the PhD will automatically be

considered for the MA program. Those interested only in the terminal MA program should apply just to that program. Students applying to the MA program can expect to hear about admission some time in late March to early April.

Students wishing to pursue a master's degree in philosophy should note the Graduate School requirements in the master's degree requirements (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/degree-requirements/masters-degree-requirements/>) section and consult the MA Program page (<https://www.colorado.edu/philosophy/graduate/ma-program/>) and the Graduate Admissions page (<https://www.colorado.edu/philosophy/graduate/graduate-admissions/>) of the Philosophy Department's website.

Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's Degree Program

Students may earn this degree as part of the Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's (BAM) degree program, which allows currently enrolled CU Boulder undergraduate students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in a shorter period of time.

For more information, see the Accelerated Master's tab for the associated bachelor's degree, Philosophy - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/philosophy/philosophy-bachelor-arts-ba/#acceleratedmasterstext>) and the Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's Program page (<https://www.colorado.edu/philosophy/undergraduate/bachelors-accelerated-masters-program/>) on the Philosophy Department's website.

Requirements

Degree Plans

Plan I: Thesis Option

The MA requires:

- 30 hours of approved graduate study at the 5000 level or above (philosophy courses taken below the 5000 level may be taken as PHIL 5810, with approval)
- demonstrated proficiency in the core areas of philosophy
- a successful thesis defense.

Four to six hours of the 30 credit hours must be thesis hours; the remaining 24 to 26 hours are for coursework credit hours (typically eight courses). At least 18 hours must be philosophy courses (PHIL 6940 and PHIL 6950 do not count).

No more than 9 hours of credit may be transferred into the program from other graduate programs. Students who enter the MA program already holding an MA degree may not transfer into the program any credits that applied toward the MA degree already held.

Students must demonstrate competence in the core areas of philosophy by passing, with a grade of B or better, one graduate or upper-division course in each of the following three areas: history of philosophy, metaphysics and epistemology, and values.

Required Courses and Credit Hours

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
PHIL 6950	Master's Thesis	4-6
Electives		

One course on the history of philosophy. Course topic must cover a philosopher or subject in ancient (5th century BC through Augustine) or early modern philosophy (17th to 18th century; roughly Decartes to Kant).	3
PHIL 5010	Single Philosopher
PHIL 5020	Topics in the History of Philosophy
PHIL 6000	Seminar in the History of Philosophy
One course in metaphysics and epistemology:	3
PHIL 5300	Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 5340	Epistemology
PHIL 5360	Metaphysics
PHIL 5370	Free Will and Determinism
PHIL 5400	Philosophy of Science
PHIL 5490	Philosophy of Language
PHIL 5550	Metaphysics and Epistemology Proseminar
PHIL 6300	Seminar in Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 6340	Seminar in Epistemology
PHIL 6380	Seminar in Metaphysics
PHIL 6400	Seminar in Philosophy of Science
PHIL 6490	Seminar in Philosophy of Language
One course in values:	3
PHIL 5100	Values Proseminar
PHIL 5110	Contemporary Moral Theory
PHIL 5120	Philosophy and Animals
PHIL 5150	Topics in Applied Ethics
PHIL 5200	Contemporary Political Philosophy
PHIL 5210	Philosophy and Social Policy
PHIL 5230	Bioethics and Public Policy
PHIL 5240	Seminar in Environmental Philosophy
PHIL 5260	Philosophy of Law
PHIL 5290	Topics in Values and Social Policy
PHIL 5470	Probability and Rational Choice
PHIL 5700	Aesthetics
PHIL 6100	Seminar in Ethics
PHIL 6200	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy
Other course as approved by the graduate director.	
Other electives to fulfill the 30-credit minimum:	15
PHIL 5030	Greek Philosophical Texts
PHIL 5040	Latin Philosophical Texts
PHIL 5440	Topics in Logic
PHIL 5450	History and Philosophy of Physics
PHIL 5460	Modal Logic
PHIL 5600	Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 5810	Special Topics in Philosophy (no more than 9 hours may be counted toward the 30-hour requirement)
PHIL 5840	Graduate Independent Study (no more than 6 hours may be counted toward the 30-hour requirement)
PHIL 6310	Issues and Methods in Cognitive Science
PHIL 7415	Cognitive Science Research Applications Seminar 1

PHIL 7810	Topics in Cognitive Science
Students must demonstrate competence in logic by earning a grade of B– or better in PHIL 2440 (Symbolic Logic), or an equivalent course, or in some more advanced logic course. Students may satisfy this requirement either by taking all the examinations in PHIL 2440 and averaging at least a B– or by earning at least a B– on the comprehensive final examination offered in that course each semester. Students may be exempted from this requirement by the Director of Graduate Studies if they have done suitable work in formal logic at other institutions, or in other departments at CU Boulder.	

Total Credit Hours **28-30**

Thesis and Oral Defense

Each student must prepare a thesis plan acceptable to the chair of his or her thesis committee and proceed to write the thesis, working as closely as necessary with the chair. At the appropriate time, the committee will convene to hold a final oral defense of the thesis. A copy of the thesis must be furnished to each committee member at least two weeks prior to the scheduled date of the defense.

Plan II: Non-Thesis Option

The department will award a non-thesis MA to any student who has completed 33 credits of graduate-level coursework with a B+ average or better. Twenty-four hours of coursework must be in philosophy.

The student must also meet the standard logic requirement and take three credits in each of our three general areas: history of philosophy (ancient or modern, specifically); metaphysics and epistemology; and values.

Standard restrictions on the number of credits earned from special topics and from independent study apply.

Required Courses and Credit Hours

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Electives		
One course on the history of philosophy. Course topic must cover a philosopher or subject in ancient (5th century BC through Augustine) or early modern philosophy (17th to 18th century; roughly Decartes to Kant).		3
PHIL 5010	Single Philosopher	
PHIL 5020	Topics in the History of Philosophy	
PHIL 6000	Seminar in the History of Philosophy	
One course in metaphysics and epistemology:		3
PHIL 5300	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 5340	Epistemology	
PHIL 5360	Metaphysics	
PHIL 5370	Free Will and Determinism	
PHIL 5400	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 5490	Philosophy of Language	
PHIL 5550	Metaphysics and Epistemology Proseminar	
PHIL 6300	Seminar in Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 6340	Seminar in Epistemology	
PHIL 6380	Seminar in Metaphysics	
PHIL 6400	Seminar in Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 6490	Seminar in Philosophy of Language	

One course in values:	3
PHIL 5100	Values Proseminar
PHIL 5110	Contemporary Moral Theory
PHIL 5120	Philosophy and Animals
PHIL 5150	Topics in Applied Ethics
PHIL 5200	Contemporary Political Philosophy
PHIL 5210	Philosophy and Social Policy
PHIL 5230	Bioethics and Public Policy
PHIL 5240	Seminar in Environmental Philosophy
PHIL 5260	Philosophy of Law
PHIL 5290	Topics in Values and Social Policy
PHIL 5470	Probability and Rational Choice
PHIL 5700	Aesthetics
PHIL 6100	Seminar in Ethics
PHIL 6200	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy
Other course as approved by the graduate director.	

Other electives to fulfill the 33-credit minimum: 27

PHIL 5030	Greek Philosophical Texts
PHIL 5040	Latin Philosophical Texts
PHIL 5440	Topics in Logic
PHIL 5450	History and Philosophy of Physics
PHIL 5460	Modal Logic
PHIL 5600	Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 5800	Open Topics in Philosophy
PHIL 5810	Special Topics in Philosophy (no more than 9 hours may be counted toward the 30-hour requirement)
PHIL 5840	Graduate Independent Study (no more than 6 hours may be counted toward the 30-hour requirement)
PHIL 6310	Issues and Methods in Cognitive Science
PHIL 7415	Cognitive Science Research Applications Seminar 1
PHIL 7425	Cognitive Science Research Applications Seminar 2
PHIL 7810	Topics in Cognitive Science

Students must demonstrate competence in logic by earning a grade of B– or better in PHIL 2440 (Symbolic Logic), or an equivalent course, or in some more advanced logic course. Students may satisfy this requirement either by taking all the examinations in PHIL 2440 and averaging at least a B– or by earning at least a B– on the comprehensive final examination offered in that course each semester. Students may be exempted from this requirement by the Director of Graduate Studies if they have done suitable work in formal logic at other institutions, or in other departments at CU Boulder.

Total Credit Hours 36

Plan(s) of Study

Year One

Fall Semester		Credit Hours
PHIL 5100	Values Proseminar	3
PHIL 6000	Seminar in the History of Philosophy	3-4

PHIL 6380	Seminar in Metaphysics	3
Credit Hours		9-10

Spring Semester

PHIL 5550	Metaphysics and Epistemology Proseminar	3
PHIL 6100	Seminar in Ethics	3
PHIL 5020	Topics in the History of Philosophy	3
Credit Hours		9

Year Two

Fall Semester

PHIL 6950	Master's Thesis	1-6
PHIL 6340	Seminar in Epistemology	3
Credit Hours		4-9

Spring Semester

PHIL 6940	Master's Candidate for Degree	1
PHIL 6200	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy	3
Credit Hours		4

Total Credit Hours 26-32