Based on its longstanding strengths in continental philosophy and in the history of philosophy (in phenomenology and in early modern up to post-Kantian philosophy), the Penn State Philosophy Doctoral Program focuses on social and political philosophy in the broad sense. Our graduate faculty offer seminars in Plato and Rousseau, but also in the philosophy of race, decolonial philosophy, feminist philosophy, and environmental philosophy. Similarly our graduate faculty offer seminars in ethics, not only in the traditional areas of ethics such as deontology, but also in contemporary forms of ethical theory like care and relational ethics.

The Penn State Philosophy Doctoral Program offers dual-title doctoral degrees in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, in African American and Diaspora Studies, and in Classics and Mediterranean Studies.