

# PHILOSOPHY

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## Degree Requirements

### Master of Arts (M.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

Students receive an M.A. degree as a part of their work for the Ph.D. The M.A. is awarded after successful completion of the qualifying exam, part of which serves as the master's scholarly paper, and after acquiring the minimum 30 credits of courses.

Students awarded an M.A. will have met the following requirements:

1. A minimum of 30 credits including at least 18 credits in 500-level courses.
  - a. At least 18 credits must be in Philosophy. (At least 12 of these credits must be in 400 and 500 level courses).
  - b. 6 credits may be in a Graduate Minor.
2. The submission of a qualifying examination portfolio, a portion of which serves as the master's scholarly paper. The portfolio must be accepted by the qualifying examination committee and the head of the graduate program.
3. Successful completion of the qualifying exam.

The department does not admit applicants for the terminal master's degree.

### Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

A minimum of 30 credits in residence at Penn State is required. 18 of these course credits must be at the 500 level in Philosophy. In addition, at least 9 credits must be taken at the 600 level in Philosophy. Students typically take 50 credits of course work and 36 research credits. At the program's discretion, students may take up to 15 non-Philosophy credits toward a doctoral minor.

The foreign language requirement for the Philosophy Ph.D. degree is satisfied either by passing department translation examinations in two languages other than English, or by passing one language examination and PHIL 512 (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/search/?P=PHIL%20512>).

To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.