Welcome to Graduate School!

This handbook is designed to provide you with information about the Philosophy MA degree requirements, as well as basic information to guide your experience in our graduate program.

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FORMS:

- Program of Study for Master's Degree form
- Application for Comprehensive Exam form
- Application for Thesis form
- Application for Project form

Philosophy Graduate Faculty
**Introduction**

The Master of Arts degree in Philosophy offers students the opportunity for advanced study in a traditional Philosophy program. The course sequence aims at providing students with a broad background in philosophy, while honing students’ philosophical skills to include rigorous thinking, the ability to give coherent arguments for one’s own position, and to communicate reasoned arguments clearly and compellingly. The curriculum is flexible enough to encourage broad inquiry in discovery, critical thinking, applied philosophy, and creative enterprise for students. The MA program is intended for students who wish to develop an advanced competence in Philosophy prior to pursuit of the J.D., a further Ph.D. degree, or employment in and outside of academia. Students can develop the knowledge and skills in philosophy that are requisite for success at the highest levels of graduate work, as well as success in leadership, scholarship, and/or creative endeavors in business, the public sector, or non-profit environments.

**The Curriculum**

All MA students are required to complete at least 30 total hours of coursework. Coursework for the MA in Philosophy includes two required foundational courses, philosophy electives, thesis or internship hours, and can include up to six (6) hours of graduate work from another graduate department at UTSA (with approval of the GAR). All MA students are required to take one course in Logic and one course in Philosophical Writing and Research.

Electives are divided into three types: a sequence of history courses (5113, 5123, 5133, 6143, 6153), general philosophy electives (5013, 5023, 5223, 5243, 5263, 5273) and specialized advanced topics (6033, 6973). **Students must take one elective from each type.**

Students will need to think carefully about whether they want to choose a thesis or a non-thesis track of study. Students who plan on pursuing a PhD in philosophy are **strongly encouraged** to write a thesis. Students taking a thesis must complete 6 hours of thesis work and round off their degree with 9 hours of electives, which may be drawn from the prescribed or free electives, or up to two approved courses (6 hours) from outside of the discipline of philosophy (with the approval of the GAR and outside faculty member). Those on the non-thesis track must complete 6 hours of internship credits and round off their degree with 12 hours of electives, which may be drawn from the prescribed or free electives, or up to two approved courses (6 hours) from outside of the discipline of philosophy (with the approval of the GAR and outside faculty member). Some courses that
Faculty in other departments have already agreed to permit Philosophy MA students to take as elective credit are HIS 6113 Law and Society in America, POL 5133 Ethnic and Gender Politics, POL 5063 Political Philosophy, POL 5273 Contemporary Political Theory and Social Policy, POL 5223 Issues: Contemporary Political Theory.

Be sure to plan carefully to finish your degree requirements on time. Listed below are the current MA courses that will be offered on a rotational basis by the Department:

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<tr>
<th>PHI Number</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5003 or 5013</td>
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<td>5033</td>
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<th>PHI Number</th>
<th>Prescribed Elective Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>*5113</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<td>*5123</td>
<td>Modern Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>*5133</td>
<td>19th-Century Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>*6143</td>
<td>Contemporary Analytic Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>*6153</td>
<td>Contemporary Continental Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>*5013</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>*5023</td>
<td>Ethical Theory</td>
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<td>*5223</td>
<td>Epistemology</td>
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<td>*5243</td>
<td>Metaphysics</td>
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<td>*5253</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>*5263</td>
<td>Philosophy of Language</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>*5273</td>
<td>Social/Political Philosophy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>*6033</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Applied Ethics (may be repeated for credit when topics differ)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*6973</td>
<td>Special Studies in Philosophy (may be repeated for credit when topics differ)</td>
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<th>PHI Number</th>
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<tr>
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<td>*6953</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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<td>*6983</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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Graduate Course Offerings
The following is a listing of courses that are part of the Master of Arts in Philosophy Program. Please note, not all of these courses are offered each semester. Careful planning is required to complete the program in a timely manner.

PHI 5003 Logic
(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. This course aims to give students a strong grounding in the logical skills required for advanced philosophical study, focusing on first order logic with identity and introducing students to selected other relevant topics as appropriate, such as extensions to first order logic (e.g. modal, temporal, deontic logics), metalogic, set theory, probability theory or other topics of both logical and philosophical interest (e.g. counterfactuals). May be repeated for credit when the topics vary.

PHI 5013 Advanced Logic
(3-0) hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Rigorous definitions of syntax and semantics. Proofs of soundness and completeness of sentential and predicate logics; other topics in metatheory. May include extensions of and alternatives to classical logic and the philosophical significance of logic and metalogical results. Three hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary.

PHI 5023: Ethical Theory
(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Advanced study of ethical theories and the nature and scope of ethical requirements, value, virtue, duty and moral responsibility. Advanced study may emphasize specific approaches to ethics such as consequentialist, deontological, virtue theoretic, and contractarian or specific metaethical issues such as ethics and rationality. Readings will include selected classical and contemporary texts.

PHI 5033: Philosophical Writing and Research
(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. This course aims to enhance philosophical reading, critical evaluation and writing skills; it aims further to help develop techniques in research and refine oral communication and presentation skills.
**PHI 5113 Ancient Philosophy**

(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. In-depth investigation of central figures and/or topics in ancient philosophy. Study may focus on a few major philosophical figures in the ancient world from the time of the pre-Socratics through to the Hellenistic and Neo-Platonic schools. Topics may include the nature of reality, theories of truth, ethical theories, psychological issues, political theory, or issues in logic and theories of meaning.

**PHI 5123 Modern Philosophy**

(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Advanced study of major figures in modern philosophy such as Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Spinoza, Leibniz, and Kant. Discussion may focus on the seminal work of one of more major thinkers such as the *Meditations, Critique of Pure Reason, Ethics, or Theodicy.*

**PHI 5133 Nineteenth Century Philosophy**

(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. High-level examination of some of the major figures and topics in nineteenth-century philosophy and its intellectual background, including (but not limited to) these figures: Kant, Maimon, Bentham, Fichte, Schelling, Schopenhauer, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Marx, Mill, Nietzsche, Peirce, James, Dewey, Emerson, Thoreau; and these topics: philosophical aspects of German romanticism, idealism, utilitarianism, materialism, pragmatism, transcendentalism.

**PHI 5223 Epistemology**

(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Advanced study in the theory of knowledge. The course will focus on the core questions of epistemology: What is knowledge? What, if anything, do we know? How do we know it? Discussion may focus on one or more major epistemological topics such as the nature of perception, belief, justification and truth; naturalized epistemology, theories of truth, internalist and externalist theories of justification; the sources of knowledge; skepticism; the epistemic role of social context in relativism, social construction, and feminist epistemology.

**PHI 5243 Metaphysics**

(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Advanced investigation of some of the traditional metaphysical problems in Western philosophy such as the existence of God, the relationship between mind and body,
determinism versus free will, universals and particulars, personal identity, persistence, material composition, and the nature of time and space.

**PHI 5253 Philosophy of Religion**

*(3-0) 3 hours credit.* Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Study of key figures (such as Anselm, Augustine, Aquinas, Leibniz, Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Plantinga) and/or the major concepts and issues in philosophy of religion (such as arguments for and against the existence of God, freedom, the problem of evil, faith and reason, the use of religious language, and the nature of God). May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

**PHI 5263 Philosophy of Language**

*(3-0) 3 hours credit.* Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Advanced study of some of the traditional issues in the philosophy of language, such as analyticity, aprioricity, theories of reference, necessity, truth, speech act theory, and philosophical theories of formal grammars. Advanced study may emphasize a major historical or contemporary figure in the philosophy of language such as Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Carnap, Quine, Lewis, Kripke and Kaplan.

**PHI 5273 Social and Political Philosophy**

*(3-0) 3 hours credit.* Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. An inquiry into some of the main philosophic issues arising from political life, such as the nature and justification of authority, rationality and justice, cosmopolitanism, democracy, natural rights, distributive and retributive justice, equality, and civil disobedience. Discussion may focus on specific issues and one or more major figures in political philosophy including Rawls, Habermas, Gauthier, Cohen, Nozick, Dworkin, and Scanlan.

**PHI 6033 Advanced Issues in Applied Ethics**

*(3-0) 3 hours credit.* Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. There are a vast number of major issues in applied ethics. The course will offer advanced analysis of some major moral issues in contemporary society such as abortion and the right to life, the beginning and the end of life, the status of human life, persons, potential persons, advance directives, genetic intervention, assisted reproduction, eugenics, disability, wrongful death and life, the notion of parenthood, discrimination, sexual morality, animal rights, punishment and desert, the morality of suicide, euthanasia, and war and pacifism.
PHI 6143 Contemporary Analytic Philosophy
(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Advanced study of the major trends in the development of the Anglo-American philosophical tradition since its inception at the end of the nineteenth century up to the present day. There is a vast number of major issues and movements including logical positivism, ordinary language philosophy, epistemic modality, metaphysical necessity, the nature of possible worlds, essentialism, the nature of moral judgments and properties, modal knowledge, the nature of reference and language and so on. Major thinkers in twentieth century analytic tradition include, among others, Frege, Russell, Moore, Carnap, Quine, Kripke, and Lewis.

PHI 6153 Contemporary Continental Philosophy
(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. In depth examination of the character and consequences of several recent movements in European philosophy, including phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, structuralism, postmodernism, deconstruction, and critical theory. Discussion may focus on one or more major figures including Heidegger, Gadamer, Habermas, Derrida, and Foucault.

PHI 6973 Special Studies in Philosophy
(3-0) 3 hours credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of the graduate advisor. Organized course offering the opportunity for advanced study not normally or not often available as part of the regular graduate course offerings. Special Studies may be repeated for credit when topics vary.

Overview of Degree Requirements and Options
As soon as you complete 12 hours of graduate coursework, you must meet with the Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR) to devise a program of study. Please see the Program of Study for Master’s Degree form in this handbook.

Overview of Course Requirements
The minimum number of semester credit hours required for this degree, exclusive of coursework or other study required to remove admission deficiencies, is 30 (for thesis), and 33 (for internship). No undergraduate background hours required for admission count toward the 30/33 semester credit hours of coursework required for degree completion. Additionally, no grade lower than C in a graduate course will be counted toward degree
You should plan to complete your degree requirements, including written comprehensive examination, thesis/project, and oral defense during either a Fall or Spring semester. Written comprehensive exams will not be administered during summer months.

A. All students are required to take PHI 5033 and also either PHI 5003 or PHI 5013. These courses should be taken within the first two semesters of coursework for full-time students, or prior to upper-level prescribed electives in Philosophy for all students.

B. Students must take one elective from the history sequence, one elective from the general philosophy sequence, and one from the specialized or advanced topics sequence.

C. Beyond satisfying the requirements in A and B, students on the thesis track must complete an additional 15 credits and students on the internship track must complete an additional 18 credits. These credits can include thesis/internship credits, prescribed electives, free electives, or approved graduate courses from other departments.

D. Students may take up to six hours of PHI 6953: Independent Study toward completion of the degree.

E. Students may take up to six hours of approved graduate courses from other departments toward completion of the degree.

F. Prior to pursuing either the thesis or the internship, students must successfully complete at least 18 hours of coursework and maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

G. Upon successful completion of 18 hours of coursework and the comprehensive exam, students on the thesis track must complete PHI 6983: Thesis (6 hours), and students on the internship track must take PHI 6943: Internship (6 hours)

Advising

The Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR) serves as the official faculty advisor for all students upon admission. All incoming graduate students must schedule a meeting with the GAR prior to the first week of classes in the program. (This typically occurs during the new student departmental orientation.)

All students will also be assigned a faculty mentor. Mentors should meet with their students at least once per semester. However, students should feel free to meet with their mentor throughout each semester. The mentor can discuss and address a variety of issues
with students, including: progress through the program, issues related to classes and professors, advice on future classwork, and advice on potential thesis topics.

Students must select a thesis or internship director from among the graduate faculty in the Department of Philosophy not later than after completion of 18 hours of program coursework and the successful completion of the comprehensive exam. Students must first gain permission from the participating faculty member prior to notifying the GAR of the selection of the director. The director will assist you in completing your final project and ensuring your selected course properly relate to your program of study. Additionally, the director serves as the chair of your thesis or internship project committee.

**Comprehensive Examination. All students must take the comprehensive examination.**

Students must complete the comprehensive exam after the completion of 18 hours of coursework, the successful completion of PHI 5033 and also either PHI 5003 or PHI 5013, and prior to matriculating in either thesis or internship hours. After the completion of 18 hours of coursework, you must complete and turn in the Application for Comprehensive Exams Form in this handbook. This application must be approved by the GAR. Each student will take one comprehensive exam, chosen by the student from among the core areas in philosophy. Students will be given a question pool and reading list from which to study. Each exam will consist of a subset of questions from the question pool. Comprehensive exams have a four-hour time limit. The GAR will provide guidance in preparation for the comprehensive exam, which will be administered to the group of students taking that term's comprehensive exams.

Students must pass the comprehensive exam to continue onto the thesis or internship. Exams will be assessed in one of three ways: Pass, Pass with Distinction, and Fail. If a student does not pass the comprehensive examination, he or she may attempt it one additional time (after completing any remediation required by the graduate faculty).

**Selection of Degree Path**

Full-time students will usually complete an MA degree in two years (four long semesters). You will work in consultation, first with the GAR, and then with a faculty advisor to select a degree completion plan. Please note that specific application procedures are required for thesis and internship research projects, and if you wish to apply, you must have at least a 3.0 grade point average.

**Thesis Option.** By the time you have completed 18 hours of coursework and the comprehensive exam, you should consult with your faculty advisor if you opt to pursue the Thesis option. The graduate advisor will guide you through the degree completion process.
and help you select a Thesis Director. The Thesis Director must be a member of the graduate faculty in Philosophy. **Immediately preceding the semester you intend to take thesis credit hours, you must meet with the Thesis Director, select two additional thesis committee members, and prepare a three to five-page thesis proposal.** Your Thesis Committee should consist of three members: the Thesis Director who will serve as chair of the Thesis Committee and two graduate faculty members, one of whom must be from the graduate faculty in Philosophy. (Faculty can only advise a limited number of thesis students, therefore it is recommended to plan ahead to ensure your opportunity to work with the faculty members of your choice).

Upon approval of your thesis proposal by your director and committee, you must submit the Application for Thesis Form, with an attached copy of the approved proposal, to the GAR prior to matriculating in PHI 6983-- Thesis. Only after the thesis proposal is approved by the GAR may you enroll in thesis hours and/or begin work on the thesis. You must have passed the comprehensive exams AND have at least a 3.0 grade point average for your first 18 hours of graduate coursework before you can enroll in PHI 6983-- Thesis. **Pursuing the Thesis Option is dependent on a selective process; no student is guaranteed acceptance. Please see the Application for Thesis form in this handbook.**

The steps in the development of the thesis, once the proposal is approved, include: the development and approval of the research prospectus (normally during the first three hours of PHI 6983), research and writing the thesis (normally during the second three hours of PHI 6983), and the oral defense of the thesis (at the end of the semester in which a student took the second three hours of PHI 6983). More specifically, the first three hours typically involve:

- Development of the prospectus, including the introduction, review of literature, and description of methodology (with guidance from the Thesis Director)

- Although rare in Philosophy MA theses, any theses involving the collection of data from human subjects, formal application for research approval from the University Institutional Review Board must be made. If your thesis will need UIRB approval, please see the GAR.

- **NOTE: Your prospectus MUST be approved by your committee before advancement to the second three hours of PHI 6983. In the event you do not pass the prospectus process, you will be placed on the internship track toward completion of the MA in Philosophy.**

The second three hours of PHI 6983 – Thesis typically involve:

- Final research collection and analysis, and development of the chapters of the thesis, with guidance from the Thesis Director. The student will provide the final draft of
the thesis to the Thesis Director, who will solicit comments for revision from the Thesis Committee. Following approval of the Committee Chair, the completed thesis will be provided to the Thesis Committee at least two weeks prior to the Oral Defense. The Oral Defense must take place at least two weeks prior to the deadline for submitting the final copy of the thesis to the Graduate School.

- The Oral Defense of the thesis – The student will orally defend the thesis to the Thesis Committee. The student may be required to revise the thesis after the Oral Defense before submission of the final copy to the Graduate School.

**Internship Option.** By the time you have completed 18 hours of coursework, you should consult with your faculty advisor if you opt to pursue the Internship option. The graduate advisor will guide you through the degree completion process and help you select a Project Director. The Project Director must be a member of the graduate faculty in Philosophy. Your Project Committee should consist of three members: the Project Director and two graduate faculty members, one of whom must be from the graduate faculty in Philosophy. (Faculty can only advise a limited number of project students, therefore it is recommended to plan ahead to ensure your opportunity to work with the faculty members of your choice).

**Immediately preceding the semester you intend to take Project credit hours, PHI 6943: Internship, you must meet with the Project Director and prepare a three to five-page internship project proposal.** Upon approval of your project proposal by your director and committee, you must submit the Application for Project form, with an attached copy of the approved proposal, to the GAR before the beginning of the semester you intend to enroll in PHI 6943: Internship. Only after the internship proposal is approved by the GAR may you enroll in internship hours and/or begin work on the internship. You must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and pass all the comprehensive exams before you can matriculate in PHI 6943: Internship. **Pursuing the Internship Option is dependent on a selective process; no student is guaranteed acceptance. Please see the Application for Project form in this handbook.**

The steps in the development of the project, once the proposal is approved, include the development of the project prospectus (normally during the first three hours of PHI 6943: Internship), and the completion and final project portfolio submission (normally during the second three hours of PHI 6943: Internship). More specifically, the first three hours typically involve:

- Development of the prospectus including: a) the project description and rationale; b) the purpose, the audience, and the review of similar projects/technology; and c) a tentative timeline for completion.

- A prospectus meeting with the student, Project Director; and group with whom the
student will be working.

- **NOTE:** Your prospectus MUST be approved by your committee before advancing to the second three hours of PHI 6943: Internship.

The second three hours of PHI 6943: Internship typically involve:

- Participating in internship hours with the group agreed upon in the first three internship hours.

- Development of the portfolio to be submitted to the Project Committee as evidence of a strong internship project.

- The student will provide the portfolio to the Project Director, and the Director will solicit revisions from the Project Committee. Following approval of the Committee Chair, a revised draft should be provided to the Project Committee at least two weeks prior to the deadline for submitting the final copy of the project to the Graduate School.

**IRB Approval**

Any research involving the collection of data from human subjects requires prior approval of the UTSA Institutional Review Board (IRB). This requirement includes theses, master’s projects, independent studies, or class projects. If the research will be submitted for presentation at a conference or publication, it must be approved prior to any data collection. All student projects require the signature of a faculty supervisor. The faculty supervisor will take responsibility to review the research protocol and appropriate forms prior to submission to the IRB. Additionally, all students conducting human subjects research must complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Training prior to submission of the protocol and forms to the IRB. The IRB will not review applications for approval of human subjects research without documentation of the CITI Training. Research projects conducted solely for the purpose of a class project, which will not be submitted for presentation or publication, will not need IRB approval.

**Financial Assistance**

The department has limited ability to provide financial aid, and encourages qualified students to apply for a range of competitive grants, scholarships, and assistantships within the College and University. If available, the department does its best to ensure a fair distribution of aid among those students who are interested and qualified. Assistantships are competitive, so will go to students the Department believes will best serve the position. If graduate, teaching and research assistantships are available, they will be assigned as the following positions:

A *Graduate Assistant* serves in office support roles with the MA Program, Philosophy
Department, or Faculty. A Teaching Assistant I assists faculty with class preparation, occasional lecturing, individual/small group student instruction, and grading in designated courses. A Teaching Assistant II serves as instructor of record for lower-level undergraduate courses. TA II positions are only available to graduate students who have successfully completed eighteen (18) graduate-level courses in philosophy. Research Assistants (RA) assist faculty with research or creative projects. They may be required to do work in the library, field research, computer-based activities, or work in other contexts. Reader-Graders (RG) assist faculty with class preparation, coordination and grading in designated courses.

To be eligible to work as a GA, RA or TA, graduate students must be enrolled for 6 hours in long session or three hours in summer. Please note, acceptance of an assistantship precludes additional outside employment. University policy requires that all employees, including students, undergo a criminal background check before appointments are approved.

**Note: Preference for RA/TA appointments will be given to second-year students.**

Additional requirements include:
1. Fit between the position, your area(s) of interest, and your availability. Most assistantships require the ability to work weekdays.
2. Evaluation of past performance. When you work as a GA, TA, RA, or RG your productivity and professionalism will be evaluated by the faculty member to whom you are assigned. Reappointments will be based, in part, on this evaluation.
3. Availability of assistantships. The department has limited ability to provide financial aid, and encourages qualified students to apply for a range of competitive grants, scholarships, and assistantships within the College and University. If available, the department does its best to ensure a fair distribution of aid among those students who are interested and qualified. Assistantships are competitive, so will go to students the Department believes will best serve the position.

For more information on assistantships please contact the GAR or Department Chair.

**Expectations in Graduate School**

You should expect a period of adjustment, and a certain amount of initial uncertainty as you begin your graduate studies. Look to your peers for moral support, and to faculty and staff for answers to your questions. Don’t try to take on too much in your first semester.

Academic work in graduate school is very different from that at the undergraduate level. For example, a typical three-credit course at the graduate level is much more demanding.
than its undergraduate counterpart in terms of both the amount and the level of difficulty of the coursework. Most graduate students - even full-time students - do not take more than three courses per semester. Graduate-level courses often include long research-level papers, in addition to very dense reading and other written and oral work.

Successful students pursue graduate school for various reasons, but an inherent interest in philosophy and in the courses you take is essential. Faculty members will assume that you are internally motivated to learn (rather than just collect a degree), and that you are a mature adult who will demonstrate high levels of responsibility, initiative, and academic integrity. Whereas a Bachelor’s degree often emphasizes mastery of knowledge, the Master’s degree requires a higher level of creative production and independent scholarship.

**Relationships with Peers, Faculty, and Staff**

Graduate programs are much smaller than undergraduate programs, and you will likely take most of your courses with the same group of classmates. This cohort of fellow students can be an important source of support, and it will be important to foster a sense of community (rather than competition) among your peers.

Teaching assistants often experience the phenomenon of being students and authority figures simultaneously. This can be uncomfortable or confusing for some, especially those who have been recent undergraduates in the same program. New TAs should take extra care to demonstrate high levels of professionalism, and to be aware of teaching-related policies (e.g. confidentiality of student information, avoiding sexual harassment, etc.) at both the department and university levels.

Your relationships with professors will also be a bit different than at the undergraduate level. The GAR, your faculty mentor, and later your thesis/internship director are all there to help you proceed through the program, and they will each meet with you periodically. However, maintaining such relationships will, to a large extent, be up to you. Do not be afraid to approach individual faculty members to ask them about their research, inquire about their input on your work, or invite them to serve as advisor for your studies, thesis, or project. Keep in mind, there are individual differences among faculty in regard to preferred modes of communication; when in doubt, ask! Also, recognize that faculty members’ individual workloads may prohibit them from working with you, and try not to take it personally if a professor declines your requests for this reason. Most faculty members will be interested in getting to know you and helping you to find the most appropriate mentors.

You should also get to know the department’s office staff. They can help you with a variety of issues (e.g. textbooks, enrollment, financial aid, printing and copying). They’ll be happy
to get to know you and help you whenever they can.

Remember that as a Department, we value, and are committed to, respectful dialogue and professional interchanges among and between faculty, students, and staff.
# UTSA Department of Philosophy
## Program of Study for Master’s Degree

**STUDENT NAME** ____________________________________________

(Last)  (First)  (Middle)

**BANNER ID #**___________  **ENTRY CATALOG** 20____

**AREA(S) OF SPECIALIZED STUDY** ____________________________

**FACULTY ADVISOR** ____________________________  ____________________________  (Date Selected)

**ANTICIPATED TRACK:**  ___ THESIS  ___ INTERNSHIP PROJECT

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
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**PRESCRIBED ELECTIVES (18)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5113: Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<td>5123: Modern Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>5133: 19th Century Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>6143: Contemporary Analytic</td>
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<tr>
<td>6153: Contemporary Continental</td>
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<tr>
<td>5013: Advanced Logic</td>
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<td>5023: Ethical Theory</td>
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<td>5223: Epistemology</td>
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<td>5243: Metaphysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>5253: Philosophy of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>5263: Philosophy of Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>5273: Social/Political Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>6033: Adv Topics Applied Ethics</td>
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<td>6973: Special Studies</td>
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**FREE ELECTIVE**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>6953: Independent Study</td>
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**THESIS/PROJECT (6)**

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**COMPREHENSIVE EXAM**

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**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS**

Revised 08/07/2015
Application for Comprehensive Exam
Master of Arts in Philosophy

*This form *must* be submitted before the end of the second week of classes during the semester in which you plan to take your Comprehensive Exam.*

Name: ________________________________

Names of Comp. Exam Committee Chair: ______________________

  Comp. Exam Committee Member 1: ______________________

  Comp. Exam Committee Member 2: ______________________

Core Area of Exam: ______________________

Indicate core coursework:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required COURSES</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHI 5013: Advanced Logic or 5003: Logic</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 5033: Philosophical Writing</td>
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<tr>
<th>CORE AREA COURSE # (if applicable)</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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___________________________  __________________________
Student Signature / Date    Faculty Advisor Signature / Date

Submit this form and required attachments to the Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR).

Request Approval:

___________________________  ________________
Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR) Signature  Date
Application for Thesis
Master of Arts in Philosophy

Name: ___________________________________________

Thesis Director: _______________________________________

Names of Thesis Committee members:
______________ (Philosophy Graduate Faculty)
______________ (Other Graduate Faculty)

Attach 3-5 page, double-spaced proposal addressing the following:

a) Research question(s) / goals
b) Brief rationale rooted in demonstrated familiarity with literature
c) General description of methodological approach
d) Proposed timeline for completion of thesis
e) References

______________________________  __________________________
Student Signature / Date  Thesis Director Signature / Date

Submit this form and required attachments to the Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR).

Proposal Approval:

______________________________  _________________
Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR) Signature  Date
Application for Internship Project
Master of Arts in Philosophy

Name: _____________________________________________

Project Director: ______________________________________

Names of Project Committee members:

___________________________ (Philosophy Graduate Faculty)
___________________________ (Other Graduate Faculty)

Attach a 3-5 page, double-spaced proposal addressing the following:

a) Outline of project content and purpose
b) Brief rationale rooted in demonstrated familiarity with literature and group
c) General description of project design and organization
d) Proposed timeline for completion of project
e) References and Contacts

___________________________________________
Student Signature / Date

___________________________________________
Project Director Signature / Date

Submit this form and required attachments to the Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR).

Proposal Approval:

___________________________________________
Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR) Signature

_________
Date
Philosophy Graduate Faculty

Michael Almeida, Professor
Ph.D., Ohio State University
Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion, and Free Will

Eve Browning, Professor and Chair
Ph.D., University of California, San Diego
Ancient Philosophy, Ethics, Feminist Philosophy, Popular Culture, Classical Studies, Philosophies of Animal Intelligence

Xunwu Chen, Professor
Ph.D., Fordham University
Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Contemporary Continental Philosophy, Social-Political Philosophy

Ewing Chinn, Senior Lecturer
Ph.D., University of Southern California
Buddhist and Chinese Philosophies, Pragmatism, Comparative Philosophy, History of Modern Philosophy

Oak DeBerg, Senior Lecturer
Ph.D., Texas A&M University
Military Philosophy, Ethics, Political Philosophy, Animal Rights, and Philosophy of Science

Jill Hernandez, Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Memphis
Ethics, Early Modern Philosophy, Existentialism

Joshua Thurow, Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison
Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion

Alistair Welchman, Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Warwick
Kant, Contemporary Continental Philosophy, Nineteenth Century German Philosophy, Philosophy of Cognitive Science