

Philosophy Doctorate

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

The Department offers a program of study leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The doctoral program emphasizes continental philosophy, historical study in philosophy across different traditions, and ethics, social and political philosophy. Students in the Philosophy PhD program may also pursue an interdisciplinary specialization through courses in Philosophy and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. The Department is committed to pluralism in teaching and research and supports diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of its activities.

THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

Course Requirements. Students are required to complete 48 credits of course work. Students who follow the interdisciplinary philosophy and theology track are required to complete a total of 54 credits of course work, of which 42 credits will be in Philosophy and 12 credits in Theology and Religious Studies. Students who have completed an MA in Philosophy or the equivalent prior to starting at Villanova may request to transfer up to 9 credits. Transferred courses must generally correspond to Villanova courses, and requests are considered on an individual basis by the Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy.

Language Requirements. Students must pass an examination or obtain a satisfactory grade in a Villanova University-offered course in one natural language other than English related to their research.

Examinations. Students must successfully complete the MA Qualifying Portfolio and Oral Examination. This examination normally takes place in the fifth semester. It is based on the previous four semesters of work.

Master of Arts. The MA is awarded to students in the PhD program who have completed 30 credits of course work, passed the language exam, and the MA Qualifying Portfolio and Oral Examination. No independent MA is offered.

Dissertation. After passing the Portfolio Examination and completing all coursework, students begin to develop a dissertation topic. The dissertation process formally begins with a written proposal defended before the student's dissertation committee. Students also present their projects at the Department's Dissertation Proposal Colloquium.

Maximum time in program: Students must complete their coursework within a four- year time period. By the end of their sixth year in the program, students must have defended a dissertation proposal. The University requires students to complete the PhD within eight years. By recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy, the Graduate Dean considers requests for up to two additional two years. The Graduate Program Director consults with the dissertation committee and the graduate faculty in order to make a recommendation to the Dean.

Full details on course requirements, comprehensive examinations, language and preliminary examinations, and the dissertation are available from the Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy.

Each year the University makes available a certain number of graduate assistantships to students in the doctoral program. One graduate assistantship is generally awarded to a student interested in the interdisciplinary program. All graduate assistants automatically become part of a supervised teacher training program.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA PHILOSOPHY CONSORTIUM

The Villanova University Philosophy Department is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium, a co-operative arrangement which includes the graduate philosophy programs at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. The graduate programs in the Consortium co-operate and share facilities in a number of different ways. Villanova students are invited to take or audit graduate philosophy courses offered by the schools in the Consortium. Consult the Director of Graduate Studies for further details.

Program: [Philosophy](#)

Type: PhD

Departmental Courses

Item #	Title	Credits
PHI 7000	The Pre-Socratics	3
PHI 7110	Philosophy of Socrates	3
PHI 7120	Plato: Middle Dialogues	3
PHI 7130	Plato: Later Dialogues	3
PHI 7220	Aristotle: Theoret Phil	3
PHI 7230	Aristotle: Practical Phi	3
PHI 7300	Roman Philosophy	3
PHI 7330	Medieval Philosophy	3
PHI 7340	Topics in Hist Philosophy	3
PHI 7410	Augustine's Speculative	3
PHI 7420	Augustine's Prac Phil	3
PHI 7510	Aquinas: Metaphysics	3
PHI 7520	Aquinas: Ethics and Law	3
PHI 7610	Topics: Early Mod Phil	3
PHI 7640	Spinoza	3
PHI 7710	Kant's First Critique	3
PHI 7720	Kant's Practical Phil	3
PHI 7730	Kant's Third Critique	3
PHI 7810	Romanticism to Idealism	3
PHI 7910	Hegel's Phenom of Spirit	3
PHI 7920	Hegel's Logic	3
PHI 7930	Hegel's Phil of Right	3
PHI 8020	Marx	3
PHI 8070	Nietzsche	3
PHI 8090	American Philosophy	3
PHI 8110	History of Analytic Philosophy	3
PHI 8120	Wittgenstein	3
PHI 8210	Husserl	3
PHI 8220	Heidegger's Being/Time	3
PHI 8230	Sartre	3
PHI 8250	Merleau-Ponty	3
PHI 8260	Gadamer	3
PHI 8280	Arendt	3
PHI 8310	Levinas	3
PHI 8340	Derrida	3
PHI 8350	Foucault	3
PHI 8420	Healthcare Ethics	3
PHI 8430	Concept Hlth and Disease	3
PHI 8510	Political Philosophy	3
PHI 8520	Liberalism & its Critics	3
PHI 8530	Crit Thry Frankfurt Schl	3
PHI 8540	Feminist Theories	3
PHI 8550	Body Politics	3
PHI 8560	Philosophy of Language	3
PHI 8610	Topics in Postmodernism	3
PHI 8630	Philosophy of the Image	3
PHI 8640	Philosophy Contemporary Music	3
PHI 8710	Seminar in Philosophical Tops.	3

PHI 8720	Sem: Phil Figures	3
PHI 8815	Contemp Hermeneutics	3
PHI 8830	Independent Study I	3
PHI 8835	Independent Study II	3
PHI 8870	Consortium I	3
PHI 8875	Consortium II	3
PHI 8885	Critical Theory Workshop	0
PHI 8920	Teaching Internship	0
PHI 8930	Pedagogy Workshop	0
PHI 9010	Dissertation	0
PHI 9081	Dissertation Continuation	0