PHILOSOPHY, MA

The Department of Philosophy offers a program of graduate study
leading to the degree of Master of Arts. The general purpose of this
program is to provide students with the background and stimulus for
critical and original philosophical thoughts. The program is designed to
serve both those students who wish to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy
degree in philosophy and those students who wish either to terminate
their formal philosophical studies with the Master of Arts degree or to
integrate a graduate level of study in philosophy with graduate studies in
other academic areas.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines
Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application
deadline chart (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/) for
specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found
by using the One Stop calendars (https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-
deadlines/).

Admission
An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (http://uwm.edu/
graduateschool/admission/) plus these departmental requirements to be
considered for admission to the program:

• Undergraduate major in philosophy or other academic background
  judged suitable by the Department.
• Submission of scores on the General Test of the Graduate Record
  Examination (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre).
• Three letters of recommendation concerning academic qualifications.
• A sample of written work is recommended but not required.
• Language and Linguistics Concentration only: LINGUIS 464 or an
equivalent.

Major Professor as Advisor
The student must have a major professor to advise and supervise the
student's studies as specified in Graduate School regulations. At time
of admission, the student's program will be supervised by the Graduate
Advisor.

A student planning to work beyond the master's program should select,
in consultation with the advisor, courses which will develop broad
philosophical competence. A student intending to terminate studies with
the master's degree may plan a more specialized program.

Advisory Committee
During the first year in attendance, the student chooses an advisor
and an advisory committee of three faculty members. The student’s
advisor serves as chair of this committee. The choice of committee is
made in consultation with the student’s advisor, and submitted to the
Department's Graduate Studies Committee for approval. No later than
the second week of the student’s second semester in the program, the
advisory committee meets with the student to discuss the individual’s
background in philosophy and goals in this program. By the end of
the student’s second semester the committee has conferred with
the student’s instructors and meets with the student to discuss that
individual’s progress in the program. At that time the student, together
with the committee, plans the balance of the student’s work in the
program and how all requirements can best be met. The committee
continues to gather information on the student’s class work from the
instructors, and at least once each semester meets with the student to
discuss the student’s continuing progress, future plans in the program
and the meeting of departmental requirements. The student may at
any time petition the Graduate Studies Committee for a change in the
composition of the advisory committee.

Credits and Courses

History Requirement
Students taking Option A or B will be required to demonstrate
competence in history of philosophy by passing the following two
courses with a grade of B or better.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 430</td>
<td>Great Thinkers of the Ancient Period</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 432</td>
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<td>3</td>
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The Graduate Studies Committee may certify competence if the student
has as an undergraduate taken PHILOS 430 and PHILOS 432 at UWM
within the past five years or has taken their equivalent as determined by
the Committee. The determination may include an equivalency exam.

Logic Requirement
The student is required to demonstrate competence in logic by passing
with a grade of B or better.

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The Graduate Committee may certify competence if within the last five
years the student has taken PHILOS 511 or PHILOS 712 or has taken an
equivalent course as determined by the Committee. The determination
may include an equivalency exam.

Degree Alternatives
The Department of Philosophy offers three alternatives by which the
Master of Arts degree in philosophy may be obtained: Option A, the non-
thesis option; Option B, the thesis option; and a language and linguistics
concentration with a thesis. There is no foreign language requirement
for the completion of the Master of Arts degree in philosophy, though
students are encouraged to develop proficiency in a foreign or classical
language.

Option A: Non-Thesis Option (30 Credits Plus Exam)
Minimum degree requirement is 30 credits in coursework, 21 of which
must normally be in philosophy, 9 of which may be in related fields. All 30
credits must be earned with grades of B or better; and at least 12 must be
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1 The Philosophy Department Graduate Studies Committee may permit
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1 The Philosophy Department Graduate Studies Committee may permit
students to count PHILOS 681 or PHILOS 685 toward meeting this
requirement, when the content and level of difficulty are equivalent to
that of a graduate seminar.
A student proposing a program of study involving more than 9 credits of independent study must gain specific approval of the student’s advisory committee.

Every student choosing the non-thesis option must take a written exam of no longer than four hours on a philosophical area chosen by the student in consultation with the advisory committee. At least one full semester before the student is to take this exam, a specific list of primary and secondary sources to be covered on the exam is drawn up by the committee together with the student. The committee provides the student with sample questions.

Option B: Thesis Option (30 Credits Plus Defense)

Minimum degree requirement is 30 credits in coursework, 21 of which must normally be in philosophy, 9 of which may be in related fields. All 30 credits must be earned with grades of B or better, and at least 12 must be in graduate seminars.

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<td>Courses in philosophy</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 12 credits in graduate seminars</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Related fields</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
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1 The Philosophy Department Graduate Studies Committee may permit students to count PHIL 681 or PHILOS 685 toward meeting this requirement, when the content and level of difficulty are equivalent to that of a graduate seminar.

The thesis is to be written on a philosophical subject chosen in consultation with the student’s advisory committee. The student and the committee are to meet sufficiently often so that the committee may adequately supervise the writing of the thesis. Upon completion of the thesis the student is required to defend the thesis orally.

Language and Linguistics Concentration with Thesis (30 credits Plus Defense)

Minimum degree requirement is 30 credits, including the writing of a thesis, plus its defense. All 30 credits must be earned with a grade of B or better. Of the 30 credits at least 18 credits must be in philosophy with the remainder in linguistics.

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<tr>
<td>PHILOS 516</td>
<td>Language and Meaning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other credits in Philosophy</td>
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<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 455</td>
<td>Semantics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 564</td>
<td>Advanced Syntax</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Seminars</td>
<td></td>
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1 May be waived if the student has taken these courses at UWM within the past five years or has taken their equivalent as determined by the Graduate Studies Committee.

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