

PHILOSOPHY, PH.D.

Saint Louis University's Doctor of Philosophy program is designed to prepare students to enter the field of philosophy as teachers and scholars prepared to engage at the highest levels of philosophical discourse.

SLU's philosophy graduate program is ranked by the Philosophical Gourmet Report (<https://philosophicalgourmet.com>) near the top 50 (of the 200 such programs in the USA) and is ranked among the best in the world for medieval philosophy and philosophy of religion.

Curriculum Overview

Courses in SLU's philosophy graduate program examine historical as well as contemporary issues, such as problems in metaphysics, epistemology, social and political ethics and philosophy of religion, among others.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Unique resources available to the program include the international philosophical journal *Res Philosophica*; the Vatican Film Library, one of the finest repositories of its kind in the Western hemisphere; and the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

There are regular opportunities to work with eminent visiting scholars, numerous colloquia and conferences, a wide variety of reading groups and opportunities to participate in exchange programs.

Admission Requirements

There are no necessary requirements for acceptance into the graduate program in philosophy. However, a philosophy major is strongly recommended. In general, at least six philosophy courses are expected, including logic and history of philosophy.

Application Requirements

- Application form
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Résumé
- Professional goal statement (including areas of research interest)
- A sample of your philosophical writing (c. 10-15 page paper).

Requirements for International Students

All Saint Louis University admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students. International students applying to SLU must also meet the following additional requirements:

- Demonstrate English language proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- Academic records must include an English translation. Unofficial copies may be accepted in some cases for initial admission review, however official copies must be received prior to enrollment. Course-by-course transcript evaluations are accepted.

Students must submit financial documents to be issued an I-20 for their F-1 visa application. Proof of financial support must include:

- A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the student's time at Saint Louis University

- A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of the student's study at the University

Assistantship Application Deadline

To be assured consideration for a philosophy assistantship, students must submit their application by December 15.

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by a committee of philosophy department faculty members. Consistent with the Council of Graduate Schools' "April 15" resolution, no student will be required to make a final decision to accept or reject an offer of funding prior to April 15.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Credit
Graduate Tuition	\$1,450

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/>)

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for a graduate assistantship, apply by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

Explore Scholarships and Financial Aid Options (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/>)

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to make a scholarly contribution to the field of philosophy.
2. Graduates will be able to teach philosophy effectively (meeting expectations on all dimensions of the "Checklist for Review of Graduate Student Teachers").

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
History of Philosophy †		
	Select two courses with the "Ancient Philosophy" attribute	6
	Select two courses with the "Medieval Philosophy" attribute	6
	Select two courses with the "Modern Philosophy" attribute	6
Topics Courses †		
	<i>The 15 credits in the topics area must also be distributed over the three following areas:</i>	15
	Courses with the "Epistemology" attribute	
	Courses with the "Metaphysics" attribute	
	Courses with the "Value Theory" attribute	
Advanced Symbolic Logic		

PHIL 6220	Advanced Logic *	3
Electives		
Select 9 credits of Electives		9
PHIL 6990	Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters, 12hrs total)	0-9
Total Credits		57

† Professors will specify up to two attributes for each course. Courses that have attributes satisfying two requirements will count towards both requirements but will neither reduce the total number of hours of coursework required in the history component nor in the topics component. A student who takes a single course that satisfies both a history requirement and a topics requirement will choose an additional course as an elective. (E.g., if a single course bears both the Ancient and Medieval Philosophy attributes, that will count towards the Ancient Philosophy requirement and the Medieval Philosophy requirement, but will still count as only 3 hours towards the total history requirement of 18 hours. If a single course bears both the Ancient Philosophy and Metaphysics attributes, it will count towards the total number of history courses by satisfying an Ancient Philosophy requirement as well as the total number of topics courses by satisfying the Metaphysics requirement.)

Nine credits of topics courses must be relevant to an Area of Competence (AOC).

* This course, which examines the metatheory of propositional and predicate logic, must be passed with a grade of "B" or higher, and ordinarily is to be taken during the first year of graduate studies. Students who have taken a similar course prior to entering the program may have this requirement waived by the chair of the department, in consultation with the chairs of the department's graduate admissions committee and graduate logic committee. Alternatively, students may take an exam covering the material of the Advanced Symbolic Logic course. The course requirement would then be waived if the student achieved a grade of "B" or higher on the exam. Students who have this requirement waived will then choose an additional course as an elective.

Non-Course Requirements

- The dissertation prospectus, to be completed by the end of the sixth semester of study.
- A two-hour oral examination on the dissertation prospectus during which any aspect of the written prospectus may be discussed and questioned.
- Proficiency in a foreign language, if required for research.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an "!" are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
PHIL 6400	Ancient Philosophy (See Program Notes)	3
PHIL 6220	Advanced Logic (See Program Notes)	3
PHIL 5300	Problems in Ethical Theories (See Program Notes)	3
Credits		9
Spring		
PHIL 6450	Medieval Philosophy (Aquinas)	3
PHIL 6340	Advanced Epistemology	3
PHIL 6300	Advanced Ethics	3
Credits		9
Year Two		
Fall		
PHIL 6500	Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 6260	Problems in Philosophy of Religion	3
PHIL 6000	Seminar in Major Philosopher in Ethics	3
Credits		9
Spring		
PHIL 6200	Philosophy of Science	3
PHIL 6340	Advanced Epistemology	3
PHIL 6360	Seminar in Political Philosophy	3
Credits		9
Year Three		
Fall		
PHIL 6450	Medieval Philosophy (Ockham)	3
PHIL 5100	Problems in Epistemology	3
PHIL 5980	Graduate Independent Study in Philosophy (Ethics)	3
Credits		9
Spring		
PHIL 6990	Dissertation Research (See Program Notes)	1
Credits		1
Year Four		
Fall		
PHIL 6990	Dissertation Research	2
Credits		2
Spring		
PHIL 6990	Dissertation Research (See Program Notes)	3
Credits		3
Year Five		
Fall		
PHIL 6990	Dissertation Research	3
Credits		3

Spring

PHIL 6990	Dissertation Research	3
Credits		3
Total Credits		57

Program Notes

By the end of the sixth semester of study, the student should have taken 45 credits of coursework.

By the end of the 10th semester of study, the student must have completed 12 credits in PHIL 6990 Dissertation Research.

Contact Us

For more information about graduate study in philosophy at SLU, please email slphilosophy@slu.edu or call 314-977-3149 and ask to be directed to the philosophy graduate program coordinator.