A Master of Arts Degree in Philosophy may be earned by one of three plans:

**Plan I** — with thesis: 30 credit hours, consisting of 24 hours of course work and six hours of research;

**Plan II** — with report: 32 credit hours, consisting of 30 hours of course work and two hours of research; In addition, students who complete the degree with a report must give a public presentation of their work.

**Plan III** — with creative component: 32 credit hours of work including the creative component. The creative component may be a special report, an annotated bibliography, a project in research or design, or other creative activity as designated by the advisory committee. In addition, students who complete the degree with a creative component must give a public presentation of their work.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

1) Symbolic Logic (can test out)
2) A seminar in Ancient or Medieval Philosophy.
3) A seminar in the history of Modern Philosophy.
4) Another graduate-level class in the history of philosophy (pre-twentieth century)
5) At least one class in Contemporary Ethical Theory or Topics in Ethical Theory

Seminars in a Major Philosopher or in a field of Philosophy can satisfy different requirements depending on topics covered. A seminar on Rawls could satisfy requirement 5. A seminar on Aquinas could satisfy requirement 2. Independent studies (PHIL 4990 or PHIL 5910) normally cannot be used to satisfy these requirements.

**GRADUATE STUDENT POLICIES**

The Master of Arts Program is designed for students to earn their degree in two years. It is expected that those holding teaching assistantships will complete their degree in two years. If, however, a student on a teaching assistantship has strong reasons for taking three years to finish, he or she may petition the department to continue the assistantship for a third year. The petition to extend the assistantship should be sent to the Department Head or Graduate Advisor by February 1st of the student’s second year in the program, and a faculty committee will make a decision by mid to late February. Due to the limited number of assistantships available as well as other student assessment factors, such an extension may be denied.

**FACULTY**

- Rebecca Bensen-Cain, Ph.D. Santa Barbara
  Ancient Philosophy, Aesthetics

- James W. Cain, Ph. D. Pennsylvania
  Logic, Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language

- Scott D. Gelfand, Ph.D. Maryland and J.D. Georgetown
  Ethics, Philosophy of Law, Social & Political Philosophy

- Marty H. Heitz, Ph.D. Hawaii
  Asian & Comparative Philosophy, Heidegger, Comparative Mysticism

- Apple Z. Igrek, Ph.D. Vanderbilt
  Continental Philosophy, Cultural and Political Theory, Ethics

- Justin Horn, Ph.D. Wisconsin-Madison
  Metaethics, Ethical Theory

- Brian Kim, Ph.D. Columbia University
  Epistemology, Rational Choice

- Lawrence R. Pasternack, Ph.D. Boston
  Ethical Theory, Kant, Early Modern Philosophy, German Idealism

- Doren A. Recker, Ph.D. Oklahoma
  History & Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Descartes

- Eric H. Reitan, Ph.D. SUNY Buffalo
  Ethical Theory, Applied Ethics, Nonviolence Theory, Philosophy of Religion

- Shannon L. Spaulding, Ph.D. Wisconsin-Madison
  Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Science

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

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