

# **Regulae**

**ad directionem studiorum altiorum philosophiae**

**Requirements, Policies, and Procedures for the  
Ph.D. and M.A. Programs**

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**Department of Philosophy**

**Boston University**

**September 1, 1998**

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## **I. Introduction**

The policies, requirements, and procedures set forth on the following pages are in effect for all students entering the program on or after September 1, 1998. These revised procedures supplement the general policies, requirements, and procedures for graduate study at Boston University as stated in the latest Bulletin of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and should be read in conjunction with the Bulletin. The Philosophy faculty reserves the right to waive any departmental rule relating to these policies, requirements, procedures, or any other aspect of the graduate program in exceptional circumstances and upon petition by the student.

## **II. Graduate School Requirements**

All graduate students are required to enroll in no less than one semester course during each semester until they have completed their course requirements (this requirement, it bears noting, is superceded by the requirements of the Department of Philosophy). They must also be registered in both the semester in which they complete degree requirements and the preceding semester. When the work of a course has not been completed within the semester of registration, the grade of I is used. This automatically becomes a permanent I (unsatisfactory grade) unless the coursework is completed within the following calendar year. Grades of I and C+ or lower are interpreted as failures (in other words, a course is successfully completed only if a grade of B- or better is achieved). A student receiving such grades in more than two semester courses (or more than a total of 8 credit hours) is terminated from the program. Grades, including incompletes, may not be changed after a period of one year from the time the original grade is recorded. (From the Bulletin of the Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2002/03, p. 8).

## **III. Admission and General Departmental Requirements**

The Department of Philosophy admits candidates to four programs of study, leading to the Ph.D., terminal M.A., J.D./M.A. and B.A./M.A. (in addition to the B.A. degree). In rare cases, students may be admitted to the program for the Spring rather than the Fall. Their examination schedules and other deadlines will be adjusted correspondingly at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies.

The terminal M.A. may be pursued by full-time or part-time students. However, part-time applications for the Ph.D. are strongly discouraged. Candidates for either the terminal M.A. or the Ph.D. shall take no fewer than two semester courses each semester until they have completed their course requirements.

All applicants should have completed the equivalent of an undergraduate major in philosophy, typically with an average of B or higher. Students with minors in philosophy are also encouraged to apply.

All applicants for admission to the terminal M.A. or the Ph.D. programs in philosophy are required to submit their Graduate Record Examination scores and a sample of written work with their applications to the Committee on Admissions of the Department of Philosophy. Completed applications for admissions should reach the Graduate School Office no later than January 15. Financial aid is limited to Ph.D. candidates.

Special provisions for admission to the J.D./M.A. and B.A./M.A. programs can be found on pages 19 and 21 respectively in this booklet.

#### IV. Summaries of Requirements for Programs

- A. Ph.D. A candidate for the Ph.D. must successfully complete or satisfy
1. requisite coursework, including a specific distribution of courses,
  2. a language requirement,
  3. a logic requirement,
  4. a comprehensive examination based upon a specific reading list, or the ‘new’ examination procedure, consisting of submission of several essays, as described below
  5. a dissertation (with oral defense), and
  6. time-limit.
- B. The terminal M.A. A candidate for the terminal M.A. must successfully complete
1. requisite coursework,
  2. the language requirement (same as for Ph.D.),
  3. the logic requirement (same as for Ph.D.),
  4. a master’s thesis (with oral defense), and
  5. specific time-limit and residence requirements.
- C. J.D./M.A. A candidate for the J.D./M.A. must successfully complete
1. requisite coursework, approved by a joint advisory board,
  2. requirements for terminal M.A., and
  3. requirements for J.D. degree.
- D. B.A./M.A. A candidate for the B.A./M.A. must successfully complete or fulfill
1. a major in philosophy or a joint philosophy major at Boston University,
  2. requisite coursework, and
  3. a master’s thesis (with oral defense), and
  4. specific time-limit requirements.

#### E. The Duel Degree Program with Classical Studies

This program allows the student to earn both the Ph.D. in philosophy, and an M.A. in Classics. Students must fulfill all degree requirements in both programs. For post-B.A. candidates, the dual-degree program is a 19 course program of 76 credit hours. Eleven courses (44 credit hours) receive credit only for the Ph.D. in the Department of Philosophy; three courses (12 credit hours) receive credit only for the M.A. in the Department of Classical Studies; five courses (20 credit hours) receive credit *both* for the Ph.D. and for the M.A. For full details of the program, please see <http://www.bu.edu/classics/graduate/requirements/dual/index.html>

## V. Specific Requirements, Policies, and Procedures

### A. Ph.D.

#### 1. Coursework

Graduate students working towards a Ph.D. must successfully complete a certain number of specific sorts of courses, some of which must be distributed over courses in five categories, indicated in the table on the following page. They must also register for at least two courses a semester until the course requirements are completed (this provision supercedes the GRS requirement). The specifics of coursework requirements are as follows.

- a. Post-B.A. students are required
  - (i) to complete successfully a minimum of 16 graduate-school accredited courses, of which at least 12 (44 credits) must be in philosophy and at least 5 at the 800 or 900 level and
  - (ii) to select at least two courses each from (1) Ancient & Medieval, (2) Modern, (3) 20th century, and one each from (4) Theoretical and (5) Practical philosophy.
- b. Post-Master students are required
  - (i) to complete successfully a minimum of 8 graduate-accredited courses, of which at least 5 (20 credits) must be in philosophy and at least 3 at the 800 or 900 level and
  - (ii) to select one course each from categories (1) Ancient & Medieval, (2) Modern, (3) 20th century, and one from either (4) Theoretical or (5) Practical philosophy.

Two language courses may count towards the degree for Post-B.A. students (one for post-MA), if the courses are offered at the graduate level and approved by the DGS. No more than 3 directed studies may be taken toward course requirements (if a student must register for an approved language course via a Directed Study in another department, that Directed Study will not count against this limit of directed studies).

Finally, all entering PhD students, whether post-B.A. or post-M.A., must enroll, in the Fall semester, in the graduate seminar designated for all and only entering students. The specific “first year seminar” will be a regular course designated on a yearly basis for this purpose. This requirement is in effect as of September 2007.

Table of Categories of Courses for Distribution Requirement(1) Ancient & Medieval

603 Plato I	609 Maimonides
604 Plato II	680 Topics, Ancient & Medieval
605 Aristotle I	801 Ancient Philosophy I
606 Aristotle II	802 Ancient Philosophy II
607 Stoics, Epicureans, Sceptics	806 Medieval Philosophy
608 History of Medieval Philosophy	

(2) Modern

610 Continental Rationalism	619 Nietzsche
611 British Empiricism	810 Modern Philosophy
612 Philosophy of Enlightenment	811 Kant I
613 Kant	812 Kant II
615 Nineteenth Century	813 Kant III
616 Hegel	814 Kant IV
617 Hegel's Phenomenology	816 Topics in Hegel's Philosophy
618 Marx & Marxism	

(3) 20th Century

620 Contemporary Philosophy	630 American Philosophy
621 Frege, Moore, Russell	682 Topics, Modern & Contemporary
622 Analytic Philosophy	820 Contemporary Philosophy
623 History of the Vienna Circle	821 Analytic Philosophy
624 Wittgenstein	822 Quine's Philosophy
626 Phenomenology	826 Advanced Phenomenology
627 Heidegger & Exist. Phenomenology	827 Heidegger
	831 Whitehead

(4) Theoretical

640 Metaphysics	672 Philosophy of Biology
641 Philosophical Idealism	674 Inductive Logic & Scientific Methodology
643 Philosophy of Mind	677 Philosophy of the Social Sciences
644 Persons and Nature	684 Topics in Speculative Philosophy
646 Philosophy of Religion	686 Topics in Knowledge, Language & Logic
647 Asian Philosophy	687 Topics in Philosophy of Science
660 Epistemology	840 Metaphysics
663 Philosophy of Language	860 Epistemology
665 Philosophy of Cognitive Science	861 Epistemological Crises
667 Mathematical Logic	864 Philosophy of Logic
668 Philosophical Problems of Logic and Mathematics	870 Philosophy of Science
670 Philosophy of Physics	871 Contemporary Issues in Philosophy of Science

(5) Practical

650 Types of Ethical Theory	656 Seminar: Philosophy of a Just Peace
651 Contemporary Ethical Theory	657 Action, Interpretation, and Narrative
652 Ethics of Health Care	685 Topics in Philosophy of Value
653 Theories of Political Society	850 Ethics
654 Community, Liberty, Morality	854 Seminar in Political Philosophy
655 Legal Philosophy	858 Aesthetics

**2. Logic Proficiency.**

Every graduate student must demonstrate competence in logic by

- a. Passing PH 667, 668, or 674 with a “B+” or higher
- OR b. Passing a logic examination, administered by the department, that assumes the knowledge provided by PH 360. Graduate students cannot register for PH 360 because it is an undergraduate course, but are permitted to sit in on the course.

**3. Language proficiency**

By the end of the third year of graduate study, every graduate student must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in reading at least one language other than English. The language should be French, German, Greek or Latin (unless the student’s native language is French or German, in which case the requirement may be waived at the discretion of the DGS). Any language other than English may fulfill the requirement if (a) it is needed for dissertation work and (b) approval is granted by the DGS.

This competence may be established in one of the following three ways:

- a. Passing a translation examination administered by the Department of Philosophy
- OR b. Achieving a “B+” or higher in an intermediate language graduate course (normally a translation course) administered by another department and approved by the DGS
- OR c. Passing the Graduate School Foreign Language Test with a score of at least 600 (the test is administered through the Geddes Language Center several times a year).

The format for the examination administered by the department of philosophy is as follows: students will be given no more than two hours to complete the examination with the help of dictionary or lexicon; the examination is to have two parts; in part one students are required to give a literal translation in English of a passage from a primary source and in part two they are required to summarize in English the main points of another passage (from a secondary source).

Any student for whom English is not a primary language must also satisfactorily demonstrate to the DGS his or her proficiency in writing, reading, and speaking English. At his or her discretion, the DGS may accept a TOEFL score of 600 or higher as satisfying this requirement. The DGS may also require remedial work in English in addition to a TOEFL score of 600 or higher.

In addition, students must possess a good reading knowledge of any language that is important for their dissertation work. For example, students writing a dissertation on Plato must at least satisfy the requirements of an intermediate Greek course, with the expectation that the study of the language will be an ongoing activity. A dissertation proposal will not be approved until the relevant mastery has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the dissertation director. The director will have the discretion of accepting a grade of B+ or higher in a relevant language as evidence of competence; or adequate performance on a translation examination; or any other reasonable means of determining competence.

**4. Examination for admission to candidacy to the PhD, by means of**

- (a) **submission of qualifying essays** (the “new” procedure), or
- (b) **the Comprehensive examination** (the “old” procedure)

In September of 2006, the faculty voted to institute a new procedure for examining candidates for admission to work on the dissertation.

- 1) This new procedure is mandatory for all PhD students entering the program in Fall of 2007.
- 2) It is not mandatory for any PhD students in the program prior to that date.
- 3) Any PhD student in the program prior to Fall 2007 may opt for the new procedure, unless he or she has already taken the "old" examination (the comprehensive examination); in which case, any retakes thereof must also be under the "old" rules.
- 4) No student may switch from one examination system to the other mid-stream. Once a student takes the comprehensives, or alternatively submits papers as described below, they have committed to that form of evaluation and cannot switch back.
- 5) The course distribution requirements will stay in effect, and will be strictly enforced.
- 6) All other procedures as described in the REGULAE remain unaltered, including the rules for completion of the degree (a post-BA student in the PhD program has a maximum of seven years to earn the PhD, and a post-MA student five years, failing which they must leave the program).

What follows is the description of (a) the "new" procedure, which requires submission of several qualifying papers, and (b) the "old" procedure, which requires taking written examinations based on a reading list.

*(a) The new examination procedure based on qualifying essays (required all PhD students enrolled Fall 2007 and thereafter):*

At some point after their first year of study, and before they submit a Prospectus of their dissertation, all Ph.D students must submit two qualifying papers that will be examined by a committee of two professors. These papers must be substantial pieces of philosophical work, demonstrating a strong knowledge of the relevant topic and a good deal of original thought. The papers may (but need not) be derived from papers originally written for course credit. It should not be assumed that a paper that receives an "A" in a course will be of sufficient quality. The papers must be "self-standing" works. In other words, each must be intelligible to philosophers other than those who may have participated in a seminar on the topic of the paper. The papers must be on topics in substantially different areas of philosophy; for example, it is not acceptable to submit two metaphysics papers, or two papers on ancient figures, or two papers in ethics. The DGS will determine what qualifies as a "substantially different" area of philosophy. Papers should not be longer than 35 double-spaced pages (12 pt font).

The examining committee will be appointed by the Chair of the Department, who will consult with the Director of Graduate Studies. Before consulting with the Chair, the DGS will meet with the student for whom the committee is being formed.

Students must communicate to the DGS in writing their intention to submit the qualifying papers within the first two weeks of either semester. They must then submit the papers within the first eight weeks of the semester. The committee will deliver its evaluation and a written report on the papers within three weeks of their submission. Papers will receive one of two grades: "pass" or "not-pass." If a paper does not pass, the committee will offer one of two directives: either to revise the paper based on comments contained within the report, or to

submit an entirely new paper. The committee may request a meeting with the student. Students will have three opportunities to submit each paper."

*(b) The "old" examination procedure based on the written comprehensive examination (not available for any PhD students enrolling from Fall 2007 and thereafter):*

What follows is an account of the aim of the Comprehensive Examination, the provisions attached to taking the examination, the sort of preparation required for taking the examination, the list of texts upon which it is based, the format of the examination itself, and the manner of its evaluation by the department of philosophy.

a. Aim

The list of texts, upon which the Comprehensive Examination is based, does not constitute all the texts the student should know, nor even all the most basic texts. But a demonstrated mastery of the list will show that a student has a certain philosophical literacy. The aim of the Comprehensive Examination is to help insure that students have acquired that literacy. The department of philosophy intends neither to demand a specialist's knowledge of several subfields within philosophy nor to allow a student to embark on the dissertation with a highly restricted knowledge of those subfields. A graduate education is a preparation for competence in a discipline, and the Comprehensive Examination is a step in ascertaining that competence. The student must demonstrate his or her ability to understand important philosophical texts, to evaluate them, and to articulate his or her understanding and evaluation persuasively.

b. Provisions

1. Every post-M.A. student must pass the Comprehensive Examination by the Fall of the student's third year (if post-B.A., then by the Spring of the third year). The examination may be taken while the student is still completing course work, but it cannot be taken before the logic and language proficiency requirements have been fulfilled. Nor can the examination be taken if a student has more than two outstanding incomplete grades, with the exception of permanent incomplete grades.

2. A student who fails one or more of the sections of the examination must retake the sections failed. Sections of the examination that the student passes need not be retaken. The graders will provide brief written comments to a student who fails the examination. The examination questions may be retained by the students taking the examination. Students may retain a copy of their answers to the examination.

3. Students will normally be permitted one retake of the examination regardless of how many sections of the examination the student fails the first time the examination is taken. If an examination (or parts thereof) is failed, the student must retake the examination (or parts thereof) the next time it is offered (i.e., in the next semester). Consequently all students must have taken and passed all three parts of the examination no later than the completion of the fourth year. A student who has failed the examination (or parts thereof) on the first try may continue to take courses until passing or failing the Comprehensive Examination on the second try.

4. Students who have not passed the entire Comprehensive Examination after two efforts will not be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D.

5. The Philosophy faculty reserves the right to waive any departmental rule relating to the Comprehensive Examination in exceptional circumstances and upon petition by the student.

c. Preparation

The reading list is unavoidably incomplete. It is impossible to pose meaningful questions in philosophy whose answers cannot be improved by collateral reading or by understanding of related ideas. For example, in reading classical works students should be aware of the semantical history of key terms and concepts, and in reading contemporary materials the students should be prepared to consult relevant anthologies or encyclopedic works. In all cases students should be aware of problems of interpreting texts, problems that have themselves been discussed philosophically throughout the tradition. While many texts on the reading list are taught with some frequency, students are expected to do reading and investigation on their own. In order to prepare for the Comprehensive Examination, students must do more than merely read the books on the list; their understanding of the books on the list is likely to be much improved by knowledge of other important texts in the history of philosophy, as well as of important contributions to secondary literature. Reflective and insightful answers to questions on the examination will presuppose a knowledge of other basic texts and debates in the history of philosophy. Before preparing for the Comprehensive Examination, each student should consult with his or her advisor for assistance in working out a plan for preparation for the Examination. Copies of old examinations are available in the departmental offices.

d. List of texts

The Comprehensive Examination is based upon the following texts:

Plato, Republic, Theaetetus  
 Aristotle, Metaphysics, Nicomachean Ethics  
 Augustine, On the Free Choice of the Will  
 Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, I 1, qq. 1-13  
 Hobbes, Leviathan  
 Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy (including Objections and Replies)  
 Spinoza, Ethics  
 Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding  
 Leibniz, Discourse on Metaphysics, Correspondence with Arnauld  
 Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature  
 Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals  
 Hegel, The Phenomenology of Spirit  
 Mill, Utilitarianism  
 Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil  
 Poincaré, Science and Hypothesis  
 Husserl, Ideas I  
 Dewey, Experience and Nature  
 Russell, Our Knowledge of the External World  
 Heidegger, Being and Time  
 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations  
 Quine, Word and Object  
 Rawls, A Theory of Justice  
 Kuhn, Structure of Scientific Revolutions

e. Format

The Comprehensive Examination is given once a semester, normally in October and March. The examination takes place over three days, five hours each day. In order to avoid the artificiality of dividing the texts into “areas” (metaphysics, ethics, epistemology, etc.), which would falsely suggest that philosophy can be divided into neatly separable categories and would preclude thematically comparative questions, and in order to avoid having to limit a given Examination to one historical period (which would preclude comparative questions across historical periods), thematic and historical categories do not divide up the Examination.

Hence on each day of the Examination a question may be asked about any of the figures or texts on the reading list.

On the first day the student is required to answer three of several possible questions, each focusing on a single philosopher. In this category, sample questions are:

- “What did Plato mean by the ‘Good’ in the Republic? Is the notion defensible?”  
 “In what sense might Hume rightly be termed a ‘Skeptic’? Is his Skepticism defensible?”

On the second day the student is required to answer three of several possible comparative questions. In this category, questions of the following sort would fall:

- “Compare, contrast, and evaluate the role of the concept of substance in the thought of Aristotle and that of any modern European philosopher.”  
 “What is the significance of Descartes’ cogito from the standpoints of phenomenology or analytic philosophy?”

On the third day the student is required to answer two of several possible philosophical questions that may be, but need not be answered by using any of the readings on the list. In this category, questions of the following sort would fall:

- “What is truth?”  
 “What is human nature?”

#### f. Evaluation

At least two faculty members will grade each examination. Numerical grades will be given for each of the three sections of the examination. A "pass" will be understood to be the equivalent of a B+ or better (on the graduate grading scale; i.e., 85 or higher). The student must pass each of the three sections of the examination in order to pass the examination as a whole. Each of the three sections of the examination will be passed or failed as a whole

### **5. Dissertation**

a. Prospectus. After all other requirements for the Ph.D. have been completed, a dissertation prospectus (proposal) of twenty double-spaced or ten single-spaced pages (not including bibliography) must be submitted to the Graduate School by no later than the Fall of the fifth year (the fourth year for post-MA). The prospectus should demonstrate the viability of the proposed topic and the candidate’s ability to complete the dissertation within a specified schedule. The prospectus should include a statement of both the principal problems to be addressed in the dissertation and the importance of addressing them, a tentative outline and description of the subdivisions or chapters of the dissertation, and a bibliography of significant previous work relevant to the topic. The proposal must be approved by the major professor/first reader who, together with the DGS, arranges an oral defense of the proposal. When the candidate’s prospectus is approved by the first reader for the oral defense, it must be submitted to the DGS two weeks in advance of the scheduled oral defense. The DGS will announce the time and place of the oral defense no later than one week in advance of the defense and make copies available to faculty and graduate students. The defense is open to all members of the department but must include the student, the first reader, and two other faculty members, one of whom is normally asked to be the second reader. If, at the end of the defense, the proposal meets with the approval of the first and second readers, they sign the Graduate School approval form. A copy of the proposal, including the signed approval by the two readers, is then submitted to the Graduate School. When the Graduate School has

approved the proposal, the student officially becomes a *philosophiae candidatus* or, more popularly, an “ABD.”

b. Writing the dissertation. The student should keep in mind that while most dissertations are not directly publishable, it has become a common practice to develop one’s dissertation into one’s first book or at least into a series of articles. The dissertation topic must therefore be chosen with care; it is likely that the student will continue working on that topic until his or her first sabbatical. Further, the choice of dissertation topic will have a decisive influence on the student’s opportunities in obtaining a position beyond graduate studies.

c. Dissertation completion and defense. The completed doctoral dissertation must be submitted to the readers for approval. The physical format of the dissertation --typing or word processing, pagination, footnotes, title and approval pages, fees, copyright, etc.--should conform to directives to be found in "A Guide for the Writers of Dissertations and Theses," available at the Reference Desk of Mugar Memorial Library and in STH 516. A standard resource is *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian (University of Chicago Press). Once approved by the readers, the dissertation must be defended orally before a committee (“defense committee”). Members of the defense committee must receive copies of the dissertation as well as an abstract of the dissertation at least two weeks before the scheduled defense. The committee may suggest or require final emendations to the dissertation. If the committee decides that the dissertation has been successfully defended, then it is up to the student to submit the dissertation in its final form, including any revisions mandated by the defense committee, to the Graduate School. The details of these procedures are as follows:

1. Oral defense: When the readers have approved the final draft of the dissertation, the DGS will schedule a final oral defense of the dissertation. Normally the committee for the defense consists of three faculty members (chosen by the DGS) in addition to the first and second readers. One of the three serves as chairman of the committee. The student must submit copies of the approved dissertation as well as an abstract to the members of the defense committee two weeks before the scheduled defense. The student is responsible for finding a time convenient to all members. (All graduate students and faculty in the department are notified well ahead of time, in case anyone wishes to exercise his or her right to attend.) The date and time of the scheduled defense must conform to Graduate School deadlines. Early dates are preferable to allow sufficient time for minor changes in the dissertation that may be required by the defense committee.

a. Abstract. The Graduate School requires an abstract of the dissertation to be submitted at least three weeks before the scheduled Defense. The abstract must be typed in the same format as the dissertation and must be no longer than 350 words. This limit is required for publication in Dissertation Abstracts International. The abstract is submitted in three copies along with the dissertation as finally approved: one in each copy of the dissertation and a third for use by University Microfilms. The abstract should give a succinct account of the dissertation, including a statement of its thesis, procedure or methodology, and conclusions. Illustrative materials, formulae or diagrams should not be included. (Note: Because this abstract in some cases is the only published evidence of a Boston University dissertation, held in the University library, all abstracts are reviewed by the Dean and Associate Dean of the Graduate School.)

b. Schedule prior to the Oral Defense

1. Three weeks (or more) prior to the Oral Defense: The student must pick up the cover page for the abstract from the GRS. The student is required to obtain the signatures of the student’s advisor (First Reader), the DGS, and the Chairman on this cover page, assuring the Dean that each of them has reviewed the abstract. The student

will be notified of approval. Special appointment forms (for committee members not on BU faculty) must be completed now if necessary. These forms must be accompanied by the professor's C.V. and sent to the GRS Dean's Office.

2. Between Two and Three weeks prior to the Oral Defense: After receiving approval from the Dean's office on the abstract, the student must then submit 14 copies of the abstract to GRS. The student must also submit the "Schedule of Final Oral Examination For the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy" to GRS. To complete this form the student will need to know all the committee members and have a time and place for the Defense.

3. One week prior to the Oral Defense: the student must submit one copy of the entire dissertation to the DGS' office for faculty and graduate students to peruse. This copy does not need to be formatted exactly right, etc.--just so long as the text is complete.

4. Between one and two weeks prior to the Oral Defense: the defense of the dissertation will be announced to department (the DGS will need to know: name, title of dissertation, date, time, location, and will also state that a copy of dissertation and copies of the abstract are available in his or her office). Announcement will be distributed to faculty and graduate students in Philosophy Department. The oral defense is also publicized to the Boston University community through the university's newspaper (B.U. Bridge).

#### c. Procedures at the Oral Defense

1. Presentation and examination: Customarily the Chair of the Examination asks the candidate to sum up his or her dissertation in five to ten minutes, and then the First reader examines the candidate, typically concerning the overall argument of the dissertation, for up to 20 minutes, followed by the Second Reader, who typically addresses specific points or parts of the dissertation for around 20 minutes. The three remaining members of the examining committee each take up to ten minutes. That done, the Chairman opens the floor for general disputation, in which all members of the Graduate Faculty present can take part. The entire Oral Defense might take up to two hours.

2. Discussion and vote: Upon conclusion of the Defense, the candidate and all but members of the committee are asked to withdraw. After appropriate discussion, the Chairman asks each of those present to cast a vote on the dissertation and on the Defense. The options open to the Committee include (1) to approve; (2) to approve subject to specific changes to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Readers; (3) to approve subject to specific changes to be carried out to the satisfaction of the committee at a future meeting; (4) to adjourn for a specific period--usually one semester--while the candidate rewrites the dissertation; (5) to fail the Defense and the dissertation. If the committee votes to fail the candidate, it can recommend either that the candidate be terminated or that he or she be permitted to recommence his or her studies with a new proposal.

2. Submission to the Graduate School. No later than two weeks after successful defense of the doctoral dissertation, the dissertation should be submitted in its final form, including any revisions mandated by the defense committee, to the Graduate School.

### **6. Time-Limit**

Candidates for the doctoral degree are required to complete the program within seven years after the first registration for doctoral study (within five years if post-Master's).

### **7. Fellowships for study in Vienna**

Fellowships at the *Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen* (Vienna) are available on a competitive basis. This program is best suited for third or fourth year students who have passed the Ph. D. Comprehensive Examinations and finished their course work. Exceptions

to that policy may on occasion be made. The student should consult his or her advisor before applying. Further details about the Program are available in the department.

#### **8. M.A. for post-B.A. doctoral students**

Post-B.A. students admitted into the doctoral program may also obtain the M.A. by satisfying the requirements set forth by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the coursework requirements indicated for the terminal M.A. Post-B.A. students who are candidates for the M.A. may - but are not required to - submit a thesis similar to the one required for the terminal M.A. Writing a thesis permits the student to develop a degree of competence in a particular area of philosophy. It may also prove helpful for the student to be able to record this officially recognized competence on his or her *curriculum vitae*. The student's advisor should be consulted about the usefulness of such a thesis in each individual case.

## **B. The terminal M. A. degree**

The M.A. is a terminal degree for full or part-time students; however, students must register for at least two courses a semester until the course requirements are completed (this provision takes precedence over the GRS requirement). Candidates for the terminal M.A. degree do not ordinarily apply to the Ph. D. program in philosophy at Boston University. The terminal M.A. program is not conceived as a special preparation for or avenue into the Ph. D. program. The terminal M.A. and the Ph.D. programs are entirely separate in this sense. Terminal M.A. students who apply for admission to the Ph. D. program are considered as forming part of the pool of applicants to the Ph.D. program.

### **1. Coursework**

Eight courses, at least five of which must be in philosophy and one of which may be in a language. The requirements with respect to incompletes and unsatisfactory grades are the same as for the Ph.D. program.

### **2. Logic proficiency**

(Same as for Ph.D.; see page 7 above)

### **3. Language proficiency**

The foreign language requirement is contingent upon the nature of the MA thesis. Only if it is needed for the thesis must the student demonstrate proficiency in the same manner that a Ph.D. student does. If it is not needed, MA students do not need to demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English.

### **4. Master's Thesis**

The master's thesis consists in an investigation or study of a specific problem, theme, or area of philosophy, and is composed under the direction of a current member of the department of philosophy. Aimed at helping prepare the student to make contributions to philosophical discussion and debate, the thesis should take the form of a scholarly publication or monograph, not over seventy-five pages, but with adequate documentation and bibliography, where appropriate.

The thesis must be examined by two faculty members and defended at an oral examination before the same two professors. One of the professors will be the thesis director.

### **5. Time-Limit and Residence**

Study must be completed within three years after the first registration for study leading to the M.A. degree. "Students must be registered in the semester in which the degree requirements are completed, as well as in the preceding semester" (Bulletin of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, 1997/98, p. 10).

## C. The JD/MA Dual-Degree Program in Law and Philosophy

### 1. Administration

The JD/MA Dual-Degree Program in Law and Philosophy is administered by a joint advisory board consisting of at least two members of the faculty of the School of Law and two members of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy.

### 2. Admissions and Timing of Degree Awards

Candidates for the dual-degree program must apply and be admitted separately to the JD and the MA programs. The two degrees will be awarded simultaneously.

### 3. Academic Requirements

Candidates for the dual degree must meet the requirements for the MA and the JD as established for those programs. For the dual degree, there are the following special provisions:

- a. The student must take at least four graduate-level courses or seminars in the Philosophy Department. Registration for these courses must be in the Graduate School rather than the School of Law.
- b. The student must take a jurisprudence or legal-theory course that is cross-listed between the School of Law and the Philosophy Department. That course must be one of the following: (a) JD947 (Recent American Legal Thought), (b) JD612 (Philosophy of Law), or (c) a cross-listed course certified by the joint advisory board as sufficient to meet the requirements of this section. This course may count as the student's fifth course in Philosophy, required for the MA (see p. 13 above), regardless of whether the student has registered for the course in the Graduate School or in the School of Law.
- c. In addition to the courses required by paragraphs a. and b. above, the student may apply toward the MA degree any combination of (1) courses of substantial philosophical or theoretical content offered in the School of Law that have been included by the joint advisory board on a list of MA-eligible courses, or (2) additional graduate-level courses in the Philosophy Department.
- d. In order to receive the MA degree in this dual-degree program, the student must earn at least 32 credits in courses described under paragraphs a, b, or c above.
- e. Each student's choice of courses must be approved by the joint advisory board.
- f. Up to 12 credits of graduate-level Philosophy courses may count, under the School of Law's regulations, toward the JD degree. Courses for which the student has registered in the Graduate School count toward the 12-credit maximum for outside courses applied toward the JD degree.
- g. *Research paper ("thesis")*: Candidates for the dual degree must write a substantial research paper based upon their own research. Candidates may write a single paper to satisfy both the MA thesis requirement and the JD upper-class writing requirement. The paper must be on a topic accepted by the joint advisory board, and ordinarily it must be supervised by a faculty member appointed by the board. Under appropriate circumstances, however, the board may approve a paper written for publication in a law or philosophy journal to be accepted in lieu of a research paper supervised directly by a faculty member. If the student wishes to fulfill the MA and JD paper requirements with a single paper, then the research paper must provide a balance of philosophical and legal material. The expected

minimum length for such a paper is 35 double-spaced pages (with ordinary fonts and margins). If the candidate does not wish to fulfill both requirements with a single paper, then the candidate must fulfill each unit's paper requirement as provided within each unit.

- h. The student need not satisfy the foreign language requirement, though he or she may be advised to do so depending on the nature of the research paper ("thesis").

#### **4. Duration and Composition of the Course of Studies**

The intention behind the program is that the student should be able to satisfy JD and MA requirements concurrently, thus completing the dual degree in three years. Because the Law School prescribes a full-time core curriculum for the first year of study toward the JD, the courses applicable toward the MA must be chosen in the second and third years. In addition to the jurisprudence/legal-theory course described in paragraph 3b. above, students must take at least four Philosophy courses towards the dual degree. (See paragraph 3a. above.) One such course in each of the upper-level JD semesters would produce the required four

## **D. B.A./M.A.**

The purpose of the B.A./M.A. program is to provide exceptional undergraduate students with an opportunity to pursue the study of philosophy in greater depth than is possible within the B.A. major program and to earn a Master's degree at Boston University before entering a Ph.D. program at another University. The program provides a continuing relationship with a faculty advisor and an opportunity to build up a systematic background in philosophy. However, since it is essentially an extension of the B.A. major program, it is conceived as terminating with the M.A. degree. While the Department is prepared, in exceptional cases, to consider applications for admission to the Ph.D. program from a B.A./M.A. candidate, normally the candidate, having completed his or her undergraduate education and M.A. studies at Boston University, is expected to complete his or her Ph.D. studies at another institution.

### **1. Application**

An undergraduate normally applies for admission to the B.A./M.A. program in the junior year of his or her undergraduate study. The student, with the help of his or her advisor, prepares an application and a proposed program of study, submitting it together with letters of evaluation from instructors in all philosophy courses he or she had taken during the first five semesters of undergraduate study to the Committee on Admissions of the Department of Philosophy. Admission to the Program entitles the student to all prerogatives of graduate students in the Department. Continuation in the program is subject to maintaining satisfactory progress in meeting the program's requirements. Applications are available in Room 112 in the CAS/GRS building. The student should consult with his or her major professor and prepare a program of study. The student should ask all of the professors with whom he or she has taken courses in philosophy to send a letter of evaluation to the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Philosophy, to whom the student should also bring the completed application not later than January 30th of the student's junior year.

### **2. Prerequisites and coursework**

(a) Freshman and Sophomore Years: To be eligible for the B.A./M.A. program, a student must have completed by the end of the sophomore year, at least two of PH300 Ancient Philosophy, PH310 Modern Philosophy, PH350 History of Moral Philosophy, or PH360 Logic, with a grade of B or better in each course. Any of these courses not completed by the end of the sophomore year must be taken in the junior year.

(b) Junior and Senior Years: During the junior and senior years, the B.A./M.A. candidate must complete all requirements for a B.A. degree with a major in philosophy or a philosophy combined major.

(c) the M.A. year: During the M.A. year, the B.A./M.A. candidate must complete six graduate credit courses and two 900-level directed studies on a topic selected in consultation with his or her advisor. The two directed studies courses are intended to provide occasion for the student to write the thesis. Students who have written an Independent Work for Distinction thesis during the senior year may, with the permission of his or her advisor, turn that thesis into a Master's thesis. The B.A./M.A. student will have satisfied logic and language requirements in the course of majoring in philosophy at Boston University.

### **3. Master's Thesis**

Same as for terminal M.A. (see page 13 above).

### **4. Time-limit and residence**

All the requirements for the B.A./M.A. must be completed within the first year after graduation with the B.A. degree. "Students must be registered in the semester in which the degree requirements are completed, as well as in the preceding semester" (Bulletin of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, 1997/98, p. 10).

## **VI. Yearly Evaluation**

Each Spring the faculty will review all students in the graduate program. The review may take place in conjunction with the departmental determinations of or recommendations regarding graduate financial aid. The review may include a meeting between a student and members of the faculty. A student may be requested to submit a paper completed during the preceding semesters, or to submit other information or evidence as to his or her progress and achievements. After reviewing a student's progress and performance, the faculty

- (a) may permit the student to continue in enrollment, or
- (b) may require that the student take certain remedial steps as a condition of continued enrollment, or
- (c) may decide that the student must leave the program at the conclusion of the academic year.

Students who have been asked to leave the program may petition the Chair for re-review by setting forth the reasons why he or she believes that he or she should remain. The faculty or its designated committee will review the petition and then will decide to confirm, modify, or reject its prior determination. Both the student's petition for reconsideration and the faculty's reconsideration should be conducted in a timely fashion.

## **VII. Incompletes**

Students may take only one incomplete per semester. They will have one year to complete the work of the course. Upon being petitioned by a student, the Director of Graduate Studies may determine that there are exceptional circumstances at work and that both the "one per semester" and the "one year" limit may be extended.

## **VIII. Attendance at Colloquia and Similar Events**

The philosophy department offers unusually rich and variegated colloquia (these include the colloquium of the Center for Philosophy and History of Science; the colloquium of the Institute for Philosophy and Religion; the Friday Colloquia; and the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy). Faculty often offer informal presentations of their work at the conclusion of departmental meetings. In addition, the Benedict Lectures often treat philosophically of issues in political theory. Attendance and participation in these and similar lectures and events is an intrinsic part of a student's graduate education. The department expects that every graduate student will attend at least two colloquia a semester for every semester he or she is in residence. Attendance at a larger number is desirable. The Graduate Student Association hosts talks by graduate students, and regular participation in those events by all graduate students is enthusiastically encouraged as well.

## **IX. Placement**

For graduate students who are applying for jobs (hereafter "applicants"), there are a number of steps and procedures that can be extremely useful in the search for teaching positions. A departmental Placement Director (hereafter "PD"), who coordinates a placement seminar each

fall and spring, aids applicants in their searches. Applicants should work with the PD according to the schedule below.

Students are ordinarily expected to register for the seminar sequence (PH 993, 994) during their first active year on the market if they wish to use the department's placement resources. Students who are in their first active year on the market but who will not be in residence during one semester or the other should (a) be prepared to register for the two course sequence even though they will not be in residence and (b) be in contact with the PD over the course of the semester to receive materials and coordinate their dossiers on the schedule other enrolled students will follow. The seminar will also be open on an audit basis for both interested students not yet on the market and those who wish to attend in further years beyond their initial enrollment.

The Department will not support a student's job placement effort unless he or she registers for the seminar sequence. The seminar is free of charge for students paying the CSF or who have a fee waiver, pass/fail, and two credits a semester. It does not count toward the credits needed for the PhD degree. The seminar will ordinarily meet weekly, but be more intensive in the fall, when most placement activity occurs. Two kinds of regular meetings will be featured: (1) workshops on specific placement tasks and (2) mock paper presentations by each student which will be critiqued by students and faculty. The series of workshops will be focused on a graduated series of tasks concerned with dossier preparation (cover letter, CV, writings sample, etc.). Additional sessions will involve panels of recently placed graduate students who can offer experienced advice about the travails of the job search.

Prospective applicants should make known to the PD as soon as possible (in the preceding spring or summer semesters) their intention to apply for jobs in the Fall and register for the placement seminar. The PD will then be able to apprise them of the nature of the process of applying for teaching positions. Prospective applicants will be informed of (a) the make-up of a dossier (including CV, letters of recommendation, writing samples, and teaching evaluations), (b) the necessity of assembling such a dossier and drafting a letter of introduction by September, (c) the ways in which the PD and the Department will attempt to support applications throughout the coming year, (d) the ways of determining job openings (e.g., the appearance of *Jobs for Philosophers* in mid-October, mid-November, and late-January), and (e) the kinds of expectations normally held by the institutions to which application is made (e.g., interviews at the APA meetings, course syllabi, on-campus interviews and lectures). Students will also be advised to obtain feedback from advisors on the need for any revisions of writing samples. Preparation for going on the market, in other words, should begin during the summer before the Fall seminar (PH 993). It is a drawn out process!

Each applicant's *curriculum vitae* and accompanying dossier should be approved by the dissertation advisor, and be submitted to the PD by the second week of the seminar to the PD for review as well as, if necessary, for editing. The PD will then seek to meet with each applicant to discuss these and other possible materials to be submitted with the application (e.g., the tailoring of the letter of introduction to the institution receiving it, the writing sample to include with the letter, the areas of specialization and areas of competence to use, and the course syllabi to prepare). At this time the applicant should also make available to the PD any teaching evaluations, reports, and any other information pertinent to the applicant's teaching credentials and experience so that the PD will, if appropriate, be in a position to write a letter summarizing those credentials and that experience.

At the earliest possible time, applicants should establish a credentials file with the Credentials Service in the Office of Career Services (19 Deerfield Street, 353-3590) and get copies of recommendation forms to be distributed to faculty writing recommendations. It is necessary

that the applicant have all his or her letters of recommendation sent to the Credentials Service by October 1.

Copies of the entire dossier must also be prepared for mailing by October 1. Applicants may (a) use the Credentials Service for the reproduction and sending of the dossier together with letters of recommendation or (b) have the Credentials Service forward letters of recommendation but send the dossier themselves (excluding the letters of reference) separately to the institutions to which they are applying. For costs, contact the Career Office. In both cases, applicants must actively and carefully check the packets of application materials (excluding the letters of reference) *before* they are sent out.

Applicants should consult with the PD and their dissertation advisor about possible positions for which it would be appropriate to apply. These discussions should coincide with the first week after the publication of an issue of *Jobs for Philosophers*. As soon as applications are made to particular institutions, the applicant should provide the PD with a list of those institutions to which s/he is applying.

By the middle of November the PD will seek to (a) distribute to the faculty the names of applicants, their areas of specialization and competence, a brief description of their dissertation, and the names of departments and institutions to which they are applying and (b) solicit advice from members of the faculty on how applicants can be best served in their current searches.

The PD will, as appropriate, (a) phone relevant people in the faculties of the departments and institutions to which applicants are applying or (b) see to it that someone in the Boston University department who is in contact with one or more of those relevant people makes the phone call (in order to encourage the interviewing and hiring of the applicant in question).

Mock interviews will be conducted in early December and in advance of a scheduled interview at other times during the school year.

Applicants who have been invited, as part of the hiring process, to deliver a paper at another institution will be asked to give a “dry run” of the talk as part of the placement seminar.

The PD will make every effort to attend the APA Eastern Division meeting as a means of promoting the applicants, counseling them, and getting any feedback, if possible, from departments who have interviewed them. Ordinarily, the applicant's dissertation director will also attend the APA Eastern Division meeting to assist in the process. Attendance by members of the PD and by the applicant's dissertation director cannot, of course, be guaranteed.

The PD, as well as the student's dissertation advisor and the Department Chair, will be pleased to give counsel when the student negotiates for a position. The Spring semester part of the seminar (PH 994) will in a general way cover, among other issues, offers and negotiations.

While the department will do its best to support its students in their searches for positions, the ultimate responsibility in this process lies with the student. The student's dissertation director is also expected to play a crucial role in this process.

Given the vagaries of the job market, students should also apply for post-doctoral Fellowships. They can provide a very comfortable—and prestigious—transition phase from completion of the doctorate to one's first job. Many Fellowships have early application

deadlines (often, a year in advance). The student is urged to investigate the options during his or her third year of graduate study.

## **X. Financial Aid**

For information concerning financial aid, the student should consult the bulletin of the graduate school, the department's web site ([www.bu.edu/PHILO](http://www.bu.edu/PHILO)), and the department's Director of Graduate Studies.

**XI. Checklists**

Department of Philosophy, Boston University  
**Record of Graduate Studies**

\_\_\_\_\_. This form last updated: \_\_\_\_\_.  
(student's name)

**Vital Statistics**

Address: ..... BU Student ID #:  
.....  
.....

Phone: ..... e-mail address:  
.....

Program: ..... Date of Admission: .....

Mandatory Date for Completion of Program of Study: .....

Parents or family address and phone number: .....

**General Checklist**

- O 1. Coursework
  - O 1A. Distribution requirements
  - O 1B. Courses completed
- O 2. Logic requirement
- O 3. Language requirement
- O 4. Comprehensive examination
- O 5. Dissertation
  - O 5A. Approval of dissertation prospectus
  - O 5B. Submission and defense of dissertation
- O 6. Residency and time-limit requirements

**Adviser:** .....

**Dissertation title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific Checklist for:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(fill in student's name)

Last updated: \_\_\_\_\_  
(fill in date)

O 1. Coursework

O		1A. Distribution Requirements (course, semester and year taken)				
Ancient & Medieval	Modern	20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Theoretical	Practical		
1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.				

O		1B. Courses completed (post-B.A./post-MA requirements)		
Graduate School (minimum: sixteen/eight)	Department of Philosophy (minimum: twelve/five)	800 or 900 Level Courses (minimum: five/three)		
	1.	7.	1.	
	2.	8.	2.	
	3.	9.	3.	
	4.	10.	4.	
	5.	11.	5.	
	6.	12.		

O 2. Logic requirement (can only be fulfilled by (A) passing the logic examination administered by the department OR (B) completing PH 667, 668, or 674 with 'B+' or better

OR O 2A. Logic examination Date:\_\_\_\_\_.

O 2B. Course Date:\_\_\_\_\_. Course:\_\_\_\_\_. Grade:

O 3. Language requirement (the language requirement can only be fulfilled by (A) passing a translation examination administered by the department OR (B) achieving a 'B+' or higher on an intermediate language course administered by the director of graduate studies OR (C) passing the Graduate School Foreign Language Test (GSFLT) with a score of at least 600

O 3A. Translation examination Date:\_\_\_\_\_.

OR

O 3B. Course Date:\_\_\_\_\_. Course:\_\_\_\_\_. Grade:

OR

O 3C. GSFLT Date:\_\_\_\_\_. Score:\_\_\_\_\_.

O 4. Comprehensive examination

O 4A. Taken in spring of 3rd year if Post-B.A. (fall if Post-MA)

O 4B. Successful completion Date:\_\_\_\_\_. Score:\_\_\_\_\_.

O 5. Dissertation

O 5A. Dissertation prospectus (12-15 pages)

O 5Ai. Public oral defense (sched. by DGS two weeks prior)

O 5Aii. Approval by major professor and readers

