



SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY™

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GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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Graduate Education sets minimum requirements, applicable to students in all departments, for admission to and continuation in graduate programs, and for the awarding of advanced degrees. These regulations may be found on the “Policies and Procedures” page of the University catalog ([link](#)), which all students are advised to consult carefully. The additional requirements of the Department of Philosophy are described in this handbook.

Specific questions about the graduate program in philosophy should be addressed to the department chair or coordinator of graduate studies in the Department of Philosophy, Saint Louis University, 3800 Lindell Blvd., Adorjan Hall, Ste. 130, St. Louis, MO, 63108. Telephone: 314-977-3149. Fax: 314-977-3696. E-mail: [sluphilosophy@slu.edu](mailto:sluphilosophy@slu.edu).

## 1 ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Department of Philosophy offers the degree of Master of Arts and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

The requirements for admission are listed under “Admission Requirements” in the catalog entries for the [MA](#) and [PhD](#) programs.

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.

All application materials must be submitted to be considered for an assistantship. This includes a writing sample, 3 letters of recommendation, transcripts and a statement of interest. One must apply [online](#).

## 2 BEGINNING THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

### 2.1 Supervisory Committee

Each student must work with the Coordinator of Graduate Studies to set up a supervisory committee of at least three faculty members to help guide the student through the graduate program. The committee includes the Advisor, the Chair of the Department and the Coordinator of Graduate Studies, and must be set up by the end of the first semester of graduate studies. The Advisor on the committee may be any faculty member. The committee may be changed as appropriate.

The student must consult with the supervisory committee each semester for advice about future coursework. For students pursuing the Ph.D., the supervisory committee will also help the student find a prospectus director and committee.

## 2.2 Advanced Standing

Students entering the program with an M.A. degree completed elsewhere may apply for “advanced standing.” Advanced standing permits some course requirements to be met by a student’s prior graduate work (most commonly 3 past graduate courses, or 9 credit hours, for students entering with an M.A. in Philosophy). Advanced standing does not reduce the number of years of expected funding; however, it does reduce one’s expected time to Candidacy by one semester (from 7th semester to 6th semester). A minimum of 24 hours plus 12 hours of dissertation research must be taken in residence at Saint Louis University. Students interested in advanced standing should discuss this with their supervisory committee, and should initiate the process with the graduate coordinator in the first year, or early second year, of the program.

## 2.3 Transfer Credit

If a student has completed grad-level coursework in a NON-degree program elsewhere, that work is eligible for transfer credit (up to 20% of total credits for the SLU degree).

## 2.4 Registration Procedure

Each semester the student must register for credit hours. The department procedure is as follows:

- a. Set up an appointment with your advisor to discuss and clear registration plans.
- b. Convey those plans (Course names, numbers, and CRNs) by email to the department chair’s administrative assistant (cc’ing your advisor and the coordinator of graduate studies), so that any registration overrides may be enabled.
- c. Register on Banner.

# 3 THE MASTER’S DEGREE

The program leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Philosophy is designed to serve the interests of those who may wish to broaden or deepen their philosophical studies for a few semesters at the graduate level without necessarily pursuing the Ph.D., or before deciding whether or where to do so.

## 3.1 Completion Requirements

The Master of Arts requires the following:

- 36 credit hours total (typically over two years).

- History Requirement: 9 credit hours distributed as follows: 3 hrs in a course with the “Ancient Philosophy” attribute, 3 hrs in a course with the “Medieval Philosophy” attribute, and 3 hrs in a course with the “Modern Philosophy” attribute.
- 6 thesis hours (PHIL 5990) may be taken in the second year, under advisor supervision.
- Up to 6 hours may be taken outside of Philosophy, with approval from the advisor.
- Up to 6 hours may be taken at the 4000-level.
- No more than 6 credits may be in Research Topics (5970) or Graduate Reading (5980), or a combination thereof.
- Proficiency in a foreign language, if needed for research.

## 4 THE DOCTORATE OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

The Ph.D. in philosophy is awarded in recognition of a successfully completed program of advanced studies in philosophy, culminating in a doctoral dissertation which represents a contribution to philosophy. The Ph.D. program falls into three stages: (1) Coursework, (2) Prospectus, and (3) Candidacy. The stages are summarized here and elaborated upon in subsequent sections (4.1, 4.2, and 4.3, respectively).

At the coursework stage, the main component of the program work is the graduate seminar (5000- and 6000-level courses). The seminars will help you hone the philosophical skills necessary to successfully undertake a dissertation project. You will plan your program of studies with the advice of your supervisory committee (see section 1.1 above). Students should complete coursework at the end of their fifth semester (or end of fourth semester for those with advanced standing).

No later than the final semester of course work, the student works with the supervisory committee to identify a prospectus director and prospectus committee of five members (not necessarily the same as the supervisory committee). Under the supervision of the prospectus director (who will normally go on to serve as dissertation director), the student finalizes a prospectus committee, identifies a viable dissertation project, and writes a prospectus for it. The written prospectus will be circulated to the prospectus committee and defended orally before the same committee. The Office of Graduate Education requires that all graduate students pass an oral candidacy examination before being admitted to candidacy. In the philosophy department, the student’s oral defense of the prospectus constitutes his or her candidacy examination. Students are expected to have defended their prospectus by the end of their seventh semester (sixth semester for those with advanced standing).

Upon admission to candidacy, the student begins the final stage of the Ph.D. program, the writing of the doctoral dissertation. This stage is directed by the dissertation director and supported by the dissertation

committee. The degree is awarded only upon successful completion, acceptance, and oral defense of the dissertation. Students are expected to defend the dissertation by the end of their tenth semester.

#### 4.1 Coursework Requirements

By the end of the fifth semester of study, the student should have taken 45 hours of coursework. The 45 hours must be satisfied in the following way:

- a. 18 hours in the History of Philosophy: two courses with the “Ancient Philosophy” attribute, two courses with the “Medieval Philosophy” attribute, and, and two courses with the “Modern Philosophy” attribute.
- b. 15 hours in Topics courses. The 15 hours in the topics area must also be distributed over the three following areas: courses with the “Epistemology” attribute, courses with the “Metaphysics” attribute, and courses with the “Value Theory” attribute. Nine credits of topics courses must be relevant to an Area of Competence.
- c. 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. (For example, 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. This will not reduce the total number of course hours required in the program.)
- d. 3 hours in Advanced Symbolic Logic. This course, which examines metatheory of propositional and predicate logic (and possibly other topics), 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 Graduate Logic Committee. If a determination is needed over the Summer, then the request with supporting materials (past course name and number, instructor name, syllabus, and copy of transcript) must be made by July 1.

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.

- e. 9 hours of electives.

#### Additional regulations governing course work:

- a. Up to 9 hours may be taken in a related discipline, if the student desires and the supervisory committee agrees.
- b. Up to 3 hours may be taken at the 4000-level.
- c. A student is eligible to enroll in a maximum of 6 credits through the Inter-university Exchange program. Here is a [link](#) to information about the program, including the participating schools. The form needed is on the Registration page in the section for “Off-campus enrollment.”
- d. No more than 6 credits may be in Research Topics (5970/6970) or Graduate Reading (5980/6980), or a combination thereof.
- e. Students are expected to take 9 hours per semester their first five semesters. In the second semester of the third year, the student should normally register for dissertation hours while working on their prospectus. For students with advanced standing, the expectation is 9 hours per semester for four semesters, and then dissertation hours in the first semester of the third year.
- f. One or more foreign languages are recommended and may be required at the discretion of the supervisory committee, and/or anticipated dissertation director. Before a student can begin to write a dissertation, he or she must demonstrate a proficiency in the foreign languages (if any) that will be essential to his or her topic to the satisfaction of the dissertation committee chair.

## **4.2 The Prospectus**

### *4.2.1 The Prospectus Committee*

No later than their fifth semester (or final semester of coursework), students should work with their supervisory committee to find a prospectus director, who must be a Graduate Faculty member of the department. The prospectus director serves as chair of the prospectus committee, which should be comprised of five members. Faculty from outside the SLU philosophy department may serve on the committee, but at least three must be from SLU philosophy. All members of the committee must have Graduate Faculty status, or be approved to serve by the Associate Dean. All members of the committee must be decided in consultation with the prospectus director. Any faculty from outside the university must be also be approved by the Associate Dean.

#### *4.2.2 The Prospectus Research Semester*

The semester after completing coursework (usually the sixth semester), the student begins the prospectus phase of the graduate work. The student must consult with the prospectus director to determine what is expected in terms of duties, output and local time-tables during the research semester. As the project progresses the student must consult with other members of the committee as well to discuss and develop aspects of the project.

#### *4.2.3 The Written Prospectus*

Three months after completing the prospectus semester, the student is required to submit a dissertation prospectus. The deadline for this submission would normally fall on August 15 of the student's fourth year (or March 15 for the student with advanced standing). The student should begin working with the prospectus director, the prospectus committee and office staff to schedule an oral defense of the prospectus on a date from four to six weeks later.

The prospectus must include a comprehensive section, main body, and comprehensive bibliography. The comprehensive section should motivate and situate the dissertation project by (i) locating it within its broader historical and/or topical context, and (ii) explaining the importance of its proposed topic. The main body of the prospectus must demonstrate a viable dissertation project, where this includes a demonstration of substantial philosophical thinking about the proposed topic as well as a clear indication of what the dissertation's original contribution to the existing literature on that topic will be. Finally, the prospectus must include a comprehensive bibliography. That is to say, it must include, in addition to a list of works directly relevant to the immediate dissertation topic, further references to key works in the broader field (or fields) in which the dissertation is situated.

#### *4.2.4 Oral Prospectus Defense*

When the director, in consultation with the committee, deems the written prospectus sufficiently developed, the student moves on to an oral defense before the same committee of examiners. The oral defense is a two-hour exam in which any aspect of the written prospectus may be discussed or questioned.

As per Graduate Education rules, if a student receives two or more unfavorable verdicts on the oral examination, s/he does not pass. In this event the student may schedule a second attempt, but not normally during the same term as the first try. If a student fails a second time, s/he will not advance further in the Ph.D. program. If the student passes the oral defense (and has met the other course requirements), s/he is admitted to candidacy.



Graduate Education rules also require that the student formally schedule the oral defense at least two weeks prior to the date of the exam by submitting the “[Doctoral Oral Examination Form](#)” to the Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs. The form may be found on the “[Information for Current Students](#)” website, under the section titled, “Doctoral Forms and Policies.”

### **4.3 Candidacy: The Dissertation**

#### *4.3.1 Dissertation Committee*

The dissertation chair must be a member of the philosophy department at SLU (although it is possible to have a co-chair from outside the department or university). The dissertation committee is at least three members. All members must have Graduate Faculty status or be approved to serve by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs. All non-SLU members of the committee must be approved by the committee chair and the Associate Dean.

#### *4.3.2 Written Dissertation*

The dissertation will consist of a book-length document in the discipline of philosophy, supervised by a member of the department and assisted by at least two other faculty members. Ordinarily, students should take about two years to complete the dissertation.

The Department of Philosophy suggests a length of around 200 pages to encourage precision and parsimony and to avoid unwieldy projects.

#### *4.3.3 Oral Defense of the Dissertation*

An oral defense of the dissertation to the department will take place after the dissertation has been completed, as dictated by the rules of Graduate Education. Graduate Education’s Doctoral Candidacy Advisor must approve a date for the defense at least three weeks in advance. All members of the department, including faculty and graduate students, shall be invited to the dissertation defense, along with the university community. Graduate Education will publish the date, time and place of the public oral defense in Newslink.

The defense itself will consist of a half hour presentation of the material of the dissertation followed by 60 to 90 minutes of questions.

A vote to accept the dissertation will be taken by members of the committee after the completion of the oral examination. To pass, the vote must be unanimous in favor of it. The student may appeal the decision of the committee if the failure is based on a single negative vote. The appeal must be in writing to the chair of the department.

Graduate Education rules also require that the student formally schedule the oral defense at least two weeks prior to the date of the exam by submitting the “[Notification of Readiness for the Public Oral Presentation of the Ph.D. Dissertation](#)” form to the Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs. The form may be found on the “[Information for Current Students](#)” website, under the section titled, “Doctoral Forms and Policies.”

#### **4.4 Summer Defenses**

The department allows prospectus and dissertation defenses in the Summer. However, the Dean’s office requires that grads planning to defend in the Summer must have written agreement from all committee members. A letter signed by the committee members stating that “they will (1) read the prospectus/dissertation and (2) attend the summer defense” (in person or by fuze/skype) is sufficient. Attach it to the form for scheduling the defense, and send it to the Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs.

### **5 EXTERNAL CONCENTRATIONS AND CERTIFICATES**

#### **5.1 Women’s and Gender Studies**

The Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) department offers an interdisciplinary education about contemporary social justice issues, preparing students for leadership and advocacy roles in community or academic settings. Graduate students in the philosophy department may take on a Graduate Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies by taking 9 credit hours from the Women’s and Gender Studies department. The requirements are Feminist Theories, Feminist Epistemologies and a graduate level course cross-listed with WGS.

#### **5.2 The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies**

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, founded in 1992, is a research and teaching institute in the humanities that combines the resources of the Departments of English, Fine and Performing Arts, History, Languages Literatures and Cultures, Philosophy, and Theology. The Center offers graduate students the opportunity to pursue Medieval and Renaissance Studies as a concentration within traditional Departments. Both the Center’s director and its faculty are available to help students fashion independent programs of study and research. Those members of the Department of Philosophy who belong to the faculty of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies are Susan Brower-Toland, J. C. Marler, Colleen McCluskey, Scott Ragland, and Eleonore Stump (Robert J. Henle Chair of Philosophy).

### 5.3 Teaching Certificate

The Teaching Resource Center offers a Certificate in University Teaching Skills. See the *Graduate Education Catalog* for more information.

## 6 ACADEMIC PROGRESS

### 6.1 Incompletes

According to the *Catalog of Graduate Education*, grades of Incomplete ('I') which remain on the student's record for 12 months transform into an "F", and a student whose transcripts reflect more than one incomplete or missing grade is not eligible for reappointment to an assistantship or fellowship.

### 6.2 Annual Review of Academic Performance

Seminar instructors will conduct evaluations of students after every semester, and offer constructive feedback to help mentor students.

In addition, the academic performance of all graduate students will be reviewed annually by the entire department to determine Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory Progress. The outcome of the grad review will be conveyed to the student in writing, and a summary of the review will be conveyed to the Associate Dean for Graduate Education.

### 6.3 Criteria for Satisfactory Progress in the M.A. Program

A student who is normally enrolled and in residence in the M.A. Program is not making satisfactory progress, if that student:

- i. has at any time a cumulative GPA of less than 3.00 in philosophy graduate seminars or, in the opinion of the supervisory committee, is not taking a sufficient course load in philosophy to indicate serious pursuit of an M.A. in Philosophy,
- ii. has at any time two or more incompletes that have been on the student's record for one semester or more, or
- iii. has not completed the requirements for the M.A. degree by the end of the fourth semester of residency, unless the supervisory committee has granted an extension.

### 6.4 Criteria for Satisfactory Progress in the Ph.D. Program

A student who is normally enrolled and in residence in the Ph.D. program is not making satisfactory progress, if that student:

- i. has at any time a cumulative GPA of less than 3.0 in philosophy graduate seminars or, in the opinion of the supervisory committee,

is not taking a sufficient course load in philosophy to indicate serious pursuit of a Ph.D. in Philosophy,

- ii. has at any time two or more incompletes that have been on the student's record for one semester or more,
- iii. has not passed the prospectus examination by the end of the seventh semester (for the typical student without advanced standing); or has not passed the prospectus by the end of the sixth semester (for the typical students with advanced standing, having 9 credit hours waved), or
- iv. has not passed the dissertation defense by the end of the 10th semester of residency, and the dissertation committee is of the opinion that there is not sufficient progress.

## Timetable of Satisfactory Progress for ...

*Students w/o Advanced Standing*    *Students w/ Advanced Standing*

Semester 1	Coursework (9 hrs)	Coursework (9 hrs)
Semester 2	Coursework (9 hrs)	Coursework (9 hrs)
Semester 3	Coursework (9 hrs)	Coursework (9 hrs)
Semester 4	Coursework (9 hrs)	Coursework (9 hrs)
Semester 5	Coursework (9 hrs)	Prospectus Development Dissertation Research (6 hr)
Semester 6	Prospectus Development Dissertation Research (6 hr)	Prospectus Development Dissertation Research (6 hr) <a href="#">Prospectus Defense Deadline</a>
Semester 7	Prospectus Development Dissertation Research (6 hr) <a href="#">Prospectus Defense Deadline</a>	Dissertation Writing Dissertation Research (0 hr)
Semester 8	Dissertation Writing Dissertation Research (0 hr)	Dissertation Writing Dissertation Research (0 hr)
Semester 9	Dissertation Writing Dissertation Research (0 hr)	Dissertation Writing Dissertation Research (0 hr)
Semester 10	Dissertation Writing Dissertation Research (0 hr) <a href="#">Dissertation Defense Deadline</a>	Dissertation Writing Dissertation Research (0 hr) <a href="#">Dissertation Defense Deadline</a>

## 6.5 Consequences for Failing to Meet the Criteria

- i. Continued financial support is dependent upon a student maintaining satisfactory progress as a graduate student in the Department.
- ii. A student not making satisfactory progress will be placed on program probation for a period of one academic year. If the deficiency is not made up during the probationary period, the student may be dropped from the graduate program. If the deficiency is made up during the probationary period, but the student fails in some other way to be making satisfactory progress,

the student will either be dropped from the program or put on a new probationary period.

The Criteria for Satisfactory academic progress listed in the above sections are generally enforced for the wellbeing of both the student and the philosophy department. The criteria may be altered at the discretion of the department chair (in consultation with relevant faculty) in recognition of extenuating circumstances faced by students.

## **6.6 Failure to Register and Leaves of Absence**

Any graduate student who has not yet been admitted to candidacy for the doctorate and who does not register for a semester or more must reapply for admission to Graduate Education. In order to be assured of departmental approval of the re-admission application, a student should obtain a leave of absence in advance. A leave of absence may be granted for various reasons such as illness, pregnancy, childbirth and early months of child care, and financial difficulties. An application for a leave of absence should be submitted to the Chairperson in writing and must be submitted before the start of the semester for which a leave is requested. Once the semester begins, the only option is to withdraw.

## **7 FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The Philosophy Department believes it desirable to provide some teaching experience and financial support for those making satisfactory progress towards the Ph.D. However, current budgetary constraints make it impossible to guarantee such experience and support for all accepted into the program.

Anyone receiving an assistantship or fellowship prior to advancement to candidacy will be expected to carry a normal course load and in any case is required to carry a maximum course load of nine credit hours during the semester(s) spent as a teaching assistant.

Philosophy TA's that have their own classes normally teach Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics.

Students in residence without an assistantship but who wish to be considered for appointment as a teaching assistant for the succeeding academic year must submit all the relevant application materials to the graduate admissions committee by the application deadline (usually in early January).

### **7.1 Types of Assistantship**

At present, there are six different forms of financial aid available to graduate students in philosophy in good academic standing:

1. *Teaching assistantship*: includes a nine-month stipend, plus tuition scholarship up to 18 hours per year. Health insurance is included. The commitment is up to five years for the Ph.D. It covers all tuition obligations up to and including dissertation research hours. A teaching assistant may work with undergraduate students in small groups, lead group sections, monitor examinations, grade papers, help to prepare lectures, or can be responsible for a course as the primary instructor. Teaching commitment, where the grad is the sole instructor, is typically expected after second year. Appointment usually begins August 15. Teaching Assistantship duties are not to exceed 20 hours per week.

The Department has mentoring program to prepare students for teaching. Under close supervision of the faculty, the teaching assistant concurrently develops teaching skills and a deeper understanding of the discipline. The faculty will conduct evaluations of current teaching assistants to offer advice and assistance to graduate student teachers to help them improve their teaching skills.

2. *Research assistantship*: includes an 11-month stipend, plus tuition scholarship up to 18 hours per year and contains three hours per summer. Health care insurance is included. No teaching obligation. Usually a one- to two-year commitment. After this, converts into regular teaching assistantship. A research assistant is usually assigned to one of more department faculty members. The duties are research oriented, such as aiding in library searches, acquiring and summarizing literature, preparing grant proposals, helping to index book projects, or assisting in the faculty member's research in other ways. Close supervision by a faculty mentor guides the student's development as a researcher, scholar and teacher. Research Assistantship duties are not to exceed 20 hours per week.
3. *Diversity fellowship*: includes an 11-month stipend. Regular year tuition scholarship (18hours) plus summer hours, health insurance. This fellowship comes with no teaching or research assistant duties. Competitive throughout Graduate Education. Must be nominated by the Department, and applied for in by the deadline (usually in February or March). Consult the Grad Ed website, for precise deadline. Incoming and first-year grads are eligible.
4. *Presidential fellowship*: includes an 11-month stipend, plus health care, and a four year commitment. This fellowship comes with no teaching or research assistant duties. Competitive throughout Graduate Education. Must be nominated by the Department. Incoming and first-year grads are eligible.
5. *Dissertation fellowship*: 11-month; includes a stipend, tuition scholarship up to 12 hours dissertation research, health care. Must

be nominated by the Department. Competitive throughout Graduate Education.

6. *Tuition scholarship*: The Department has several hours of tuition scholarship it distributes to students. Usually a student will receive six hours per year. This scholarship money is meant to assist students admitted to the program without support (for instance, students supported by themselves, their government or seminary). Competitive within the philosophy program.

## 7.2 Travel Support

### *From the Department*

Students seeking funding for a professional conference can request financial support from the Department Chair. When the conference participation is encouraged by the student's dissertation director (or members of the student's supervisory committee) and when the budget allows, the department will attempt to cover some costs associated with participating in professional academic conferences.

### *From the Graduate Student Association (GSA)*

The GSA offers a Professional Development Award to graduate students to help cover the cost associated with attending and participating in academic conferences. Eligible costs are covered up to a maximum amount that depends on whether it is for attendance alone or presentation at the conference. More detailed information is found on the [GSA website](#)

## 7.3 Collins Award

The Collins Award is named after Professor James Collins. James Collins was a long-standing member of the Philosophy Department and a leading historian of philosophy, especially of Modern Philosophy. Along with Vernon Bourke, George Klubertanz, and Robert J. Henle, Collins's scholarly contributions and leadership significantly raised the profile of SLU's philosophy program. The Collins award celebrates general excellence in graduate student performance. It points to excellence in scholarship and to some extent leadership. To be nominated for the award, students must be in their third year in the program. Typically, however, awardees are in their 4th or 5th year.

## 8 JOB PLACEMENT

Placement services are available for all Ph.D. recipients seeking academic positions. Students are guaranteed placement services, only if they attend



Placement Workshop meetings during the Fall semester of the year they enter the job market and meet deadlines proposed by the placement director.

Typically, the earliest a student may enter the job market and receive placement services is in the fall of the student's fifth year—and this only on the proviso that the candidate's dissertation director and committee members are confident that the dissertation can be completed prior to the beginning of the next academic year. It is not recommended that students enter the job market experimentally, or prematurely.

Placement support offered by the department includes:

#### *Placement Workshop*

Placement Workshop sessions provide a formal opportunity for job candidates to receive mentorship from faculty and from each other during all phases of the job search. This may include preliminary informational meetings in the Spring and workshop sessions in the Fall designed to help you search, apply and interview for jobs.

#### *Dossier Review*

Provided that placement candidates have completed their dossier by deadline, the placement director will review and provide feedback on all components of the candidate's dossier.

#### *Review of Letters of Reference*

In keeping with the APA's statement of best practices for placing departments, the placement director (along with the department chair) will review the candidates confidential letters of recommendation. All the contents of letters will, however, remain confidential. Students should not expect to be advised of the contents of any of their letters. Students may, however, seek advice about which letters to send to a given job in the event that they can only include a subset of the letters in their dossier.

#### *Mock Interviews*

Placement candidates will have an opportunity to have at least one mock interview with the faculty.

#### *Practice Presentations*

Placement candidates may request the opportunity to practice a job talk or teaching presentation to faculty and fellow grads.

## 9 PROFESSIONALIZATION

- The faculty and/or PGSA occasionally organize mini-seminars or presentations from faculty on various areas of professionalization—including, teaching, publishing, and conferencing. Students are expected to attend where appropriate.
- Students are expected to be at colloquia organized by the department.

## 10 OTHER DEPARTMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

### 10.1 Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA)

The Department sponsors a Philosophy Graduate Student Association, which meets at regular intervals for discussion of issues concerning graduate students, discussion of philosophical topics, issues of professionalization (such as publishing or conferencing), and occasional social functions. All graduate students are urged to participate in the activities of this Association. The officers of the Association are elected by the graduate students. In addition, the graduate students sponsor a conference in philosophy for graduate students from around the world.

### 10.2 The Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library

The Vatican Library is one of the most outstanding libraries in the world. It is also the oldest continuing library in Europe, having been established during the papacy of Nicholas V (1447-1455). Its holdings, broadly speaking, are of two types: (1) a large collection of printed books, and (2) an extensive collection of manuscripts. In the collection of manuscripts, the Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library microfilmed, in the 1950s, all of the Greek, Latin, and Western European vernacular manuscripts that experts believed would be of interest to scholars in the Western Hemisphere, as far as this could be done within budgetary limits. Following this large project of the 1950s, the Vatican Film Library has continued to film on a smaller scale and, at present, has copies of approximately three-fourths of the manuscripts in the aforementioned language groups. In the process, microfilms of the Vatican Library's Arabic, Ethiopic, and Hebrew manuscripts have also been acquired. As a result, the Vatican Film Library's microfilm collection now reproduces the contents of some 37,200 manuscript codices.

In addition to materials in the Vatican Film Library, the St. Louis Room of the Pius XII Memorial Library has a collection of over 4000 rare books printed between 1475 and 1900, as well as approximately forty French, Italian, Latin, and Spanish manuscripts. The CETEDOC Library of Christian Latin Texts, the Thesaurus linguae graecae, and the Patrologia latina and In principio databases are available on-line in the

reference section of the Pius XII Memorial Library. Related resources in the St. Louis area include the Center for Reformation Research, the library of the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Paracelsus collection in the Washington University School of Medicine Library.

### 10.3 Res Philosophica

Res Philosophica is an international, quarterly journal of philosophy that publishes research in all areas of philosophy, historical and topical. Founded as The Modern Schoolman by Jesuit Scholastics in 1925, the journal is edited by members of the Philosophy Department at Saint Louis University. The journal is pluralistic, reflecting the Department, and publishes philosophical research from a wide range of perspectives. The journal occasionally hosts speakers and conferences.

## 11 OTHER RESOURCES

- Accessibility support for students is coordinated through the [Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources \(CADR\)](#). Reasonable academic accommodations may be requested for both course-related and non-course-related experiences (including graduate assistantship work, if applicable).
- Policies and Procedures Manual for Graduate Assistants and Fellows (Updated Regularly at the Graduate Education [Website](#))
- University [Catalog](#)
- Forms and Petitions that are graduate-specific (Updated Regularly at the Graduate Education [Website](#))
- Other Forms (Updated Regularly on the [Registrar's Forms Page](#).)
- For a more complete listing of departmental activities, see our [DepartmentWebsite](#).

**This edition of GSH reflects the regulations in force at the time of printing. Normally students are subject to regulations in force at the time of entrance to our graduate program.**

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