GRADUATE STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

This searchable PDF file incorporates most of the pages on the graduate study website into a single document. Information about placement and current dissertations is not included in this document but is available on those pages.

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I. PH.D. PROGRAM

A. Overview of Requirements

The Ph.D. program comprises two stages:

First Stage: During their first two years, students take 12 courses and fulfill requirements in four areas:
    i.   metaphysics and epistemology;
    ii. history of philosophy;
    iii. value theory;
    iv. logic, language, and science.
Students must also fulfill a language requirement, usually in Ancient Greek, French, German, or Latin.

Second Stage: At the beginning of the third year of graduate studies, students begin work on a dissertation prospectus and continue to take (or audit) courses, including the dissertation seminar. Once the prospectus has been completed and successfully defended, students begin working on their dissertation. They are encouraged to complete their dissertation by the end of their fifth year at Purdue.

The following tables summarize the requirements that must be met during each stage of the Ph.D. program. **Note:** All incoming Ph.D. students must take 12 courses, but students coming to Purdue from MA programs in philosophy may transfer up to two courses to count toward area requirements.

Ph.D. Requirements	*Coursework*	*Foreign Language*	*Areas of Competency*	*Completion*
First stage (Pre-prospectus)	<u>General requirement</u> Take 12 graduate (500- or 600-) level Purdue philosophy courses, with cumulative GPA of 3.3 or better.	<u>General requirement</u> Establish proficiency in 1 foreign language via coursework or exam (or, with special permission, in some area outside of philosophy via coursework)	<u>General requirement</u> Establish competency in 4 areas of philosophy: (a) *History of Philosophy*; (b) *Metaphysics and Epistemology*; (c) *Value Theory*; (d) *Logic, Language, and Science*. <u>Area exam requirement</u> Establish competency in at least one area via exam and in the remaining areas via exam or an approved sequence of courses.	<u>Year 2</u> Complete at least two area requirements by the end of year 2. <u>Year 3</u> Complete all pre-prospectus requirements by end of year 3.

Table 1—Pre-Prospectus Requirements

Ph.D. Requirements	Coursework	Foreign Language	Areas of Competency	Completion
Second stage (Prospectus and Dissertation)	<u>Auditing requirement</u> Take (or audit) at least one graduate (500- or 600-level) Purdue philosophy class each semester during first 10 semesters. <u>Dissertation seminar</u> Take the dissertation seminar (offered as 680) at least once.	N/A	N/A	<u>Year 4</u> Pass prospectus defense by end of year 4. <u>Five-year rule</u> Pass dissertation defense within 5 years of prospectus defense.

Table 2—Requirements for Prospectus and Dissertation

B. Selecting an Advisory Committee and Developing an Area Requirements Plan

The First Contact with the Director of Graduate Studies
Upon entering the graduate program, each student must communicate with the Director of Graduate Studies, who will assist him or her in planning the first semester of work.

Selecting and Meeting with the Advisory Committee
At the beginning of the second semester, each student must, in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, first select and then meet with an *Advisory Committee*, consisting of three faculty members who match the student's individual needs and interests. This committee will aid the student by suggesting courses and areas of study which will foster his or her interests and remedy any deficiencies in his or her background, and it will guide the student's work until his or her admission to Ph.D. candidacy. Students may, with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, make changes to their Advisory Committee.

Developing an Area Requirements Plan
In consultation with the Advisory Committee, first year students must develop a plan on how to meet the area requirements. This plan must be submitted before the Graduate Committee holds its annual review of progress in late February; thus first year students should request a meeting of his or her Advisory Committee during January or February. To reflect any changes in their interests, students may from time to time, in consultation with their Advisory Committee, modify the Area Requirements Plan.

As soon as possible after the Advisory Committee has approved a student's tentative Area Requirements Plan, the student should give the Director of Graduate Studies a copy of it. The Director will review the plan to make sure that it is consistent with the formal guidelines and general expectations of the department. If questions arise, the Director might consult with the Advisory Committee about possible changes. Any subsequent changes to the plan should be similarly submitted and reviewed as promptly as possible.

During January or February of the *second* year of graduate studies, each student will again meet with the Advisory Committee to review the student's course grades and written work. In order to evaluate the student's progress during his or her first year and first semester of the second year, the Advisory Committee may consult with other faculty members who have worked closely with the student.

Transfer of two graduate courses: Students coming to Purdue from MA programs in philosophy may **transfer up to two courses** (and corresponding credits) from their MA program. Students must have earned at least a flat-B grade in the relevant course, and ideally should discuss the possibility of making any transfers at their first advisory committee meeting. These transfers can also be used to satisfy area requirements, given that they will have been approved by the DGS in consultation with whomever teaches the mostly closely analogous course here at Purdue. However, grades from those transfer courses used to satisfy area requirements will **not** be taken into account in calculating the B+ average required in the relevant area. To apply for a course to transfer and/or satisfy an area requirement, a student must provide (a) the syllabus from the course; (b) a short rationale how the course fits the area they wish to use it for; and (if requested) (c) written work from the course in question. **The process for transferring credit must be completed by the end of the student's second year of study.**

C. The Policy for Grading Graduate Students

Faculty members who teach any course in which graduate students are registered must, at the end of the semester, submit to the graduate secretary a departmental evaluation form for each philosophy graduate student in the course. On this form, the faculty member should state the student's grade for the course and supply a short statement describing the student's performance. The evaluation forms are available from the departmental graduate secretary.

The graduate secretary will file these evaluation forms, for use by the Advisory Committee and the Graduate Committee in its annual progress review. Apart from this use, the grades and comments are to remain confidential. Graduate students are entitled to access their grade reports.

Auditing Courses

All graduate students still working towards completion of their degree must take or officially audit at least one graduate course each fall and spring semester for each of their first 10 semesters in the program. Exemption from this requirement may be given by the DGS to graduate students in special circumstances.

When auditing a course, the student must consult with the instructor to determine the course requirements for auditing students (attendance, class participation, etc.). If at the end of the course the student satisfies the requirements, the instructor must submit the evaluation form mentioned above and enter 'Audit' in the space normally used to indicate the grade. Students may not list an audited course on their CV unless the instructor of the course has submitted such a report.

D. The Area Requirements

Graduate students are required to demonstrate competence in each of the four traditional sub-disciplines of philosophy:

  i.   history of philosophy;
  ii. metaphysics and epistemology;
  iii. ethics, social and political philosophy, and aesthetics;
  iv. logic, language, and science.

However, within these major areas, options are provided to allow the student to give particular attention to those problems that are of special interest to him or her.

Each area requirement can be satisfied in one of two ways:

  (A) through an examination (the "examination option")
  (B) by taking a thematically appropriate series of courses (the "course option").

When choosing the course option, the following rule applies:

> **The Course Option Grade Rule**
> When a student chooses the course option for any area requirement, the grade average of all courses in that area must be B+. A course with a grade lower than B- does not count towards satisfaction of the course option.

The student's Advisory Committee, in consultation with other appropriate faculty members and with the student, will decide whether a given area requirement is to be met by examination, the others are usually satisfied by courses but any and all *may* be satisfied by examination. All students must complete 12 courses.

The areas and their requirements are as follows:

Area 1: History of Philosophy

Examination Option: Pass a comprehensive examination covering two of the following three periods:

(i) Ancient and Medieval;

(ii) From the Renaissance to Kant;

(iii) From Kant to Early 20th Century.

Course Option: Take at least four approved courses covering at least two of the three periods stated above.

Area 2: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Examination Option: Pass a comprehensive examination in both metaphysics and epistemology.

Course Option: Take at least four approved courses in metaphysics and epistemology including at least two courses in each area.

Area 3: Value Theory

Examination Option: Pass a comprehensive examination either solely in ethics or in a combination of ethics and some approved sub-area of value theory.

Course Option: Take at least three approved courses in ethics or value theory, at least one of which must be in ethics.

Area 4: Logic, Language and Science

Examination Option: Pass a comprehensive examination either solely in Logic or in a combination of Logic and one of the following:
(a) Induction and Philosophy of Science
(b) Philosophy of Logic and Language

Course Option: Take at least one approved course in logic, plus at least two additional courses from the following areas (they need not be from the same area):
(a) Deductive Systems;
(b) Induction, Probablity, & Philosophy of Science;
(c) Philosophy of Logic and Language.

THE EXAMINATION OPTION: GUIDELINES AND FURTHER DETAILS

Grades
The grades for an area requirement examination are 'pass' and 'fail'. The faculty members on the examination committee may note in writing or oral communication whether a pass was 'high' or 'low.'

Preparation for an Area Examination
Students should prepare for an area requirement exam by studying a wide range of material, guided by examples of past exams and lists of recommended readings in each area. Both of these are available from the graduate secretary of the department. Since an area examination need not be limited to the readings on its list, students should view these readings merely as suggestions.

The Structure of an Area Examination
An area requirement examination consists of two components:
      (a)   a written "take-home" part worth 60% of the total grade, and
      (b)   an oral exam worth 40% of the total grade.
Both components are administered by the same committee.

Scheduling An Area Examination
Examination periods are in August and January, falling within the week prior to the beginning of Fall and Spring classes. Students intending to take an area examination in an upcoming examination period must notify the Director of Graduate Studies during the preceding semester. The Director will then convene a faculty committee to administer the examination.

Excusing Oneself from a Scheduled Examination
Students who have registered their intention to take an area examination in an upcoming period are expected to take the exam in that period. Requests to be excused from a scheduled examination must reach the Chair of the Graduate Committee no later than four weeks prior to the start of the examination period. Except in extraordinary circumstances, failure to take a scheduled examination without a proper excuse will count as failing the exam.

The Written Component
At the beginning of the exam period, students taking a particular exam will be given a list of questions and asked to write essays on a specific number (usually 3). These essays should typically be 1225-1750 words, with a maximum of 2500 words, each. The essays are due three days from the time the questions are made available. Questions will be designed and graded with the understanding that students are being tested for familiarity with, and ability to come to grips with, philosophical issues and problems.

The Oral Component
Except for unusual circumstances, the oral exam takes place during the first week of classes. Questions should focus on the topics of the essays, but may be broad enough to test the student's understanding of the context in which those topics and issues arise. Upon completion of the exam, the committee will file a written report, which will be given to the student. A copy of it will be placed in his or her file.

Failed Examinations
A student who fails an area requirement examination may repeat it, provided the student's work is otherwise of good quality. However, normally no student will be permitted to attempt passing an area requirement examination more than twice. The student's Advisory Committee may grant permission to choose the course option as an alternative to an examination the student failed to pass. However, one area requirement must still be satisfied by examination.

THE COURSE OPTION: GUIDELINES AND FURTHER DETAILS

Failure to Satisfy the Course Option
The *Course Option Grade Rule*, introduced above, states:

> When a student chooses the course option for any area requirement, the grade average of all courses in that area must be B+. A course with a grade lower than B- does not count towards satisfaction of the course option.

Consequently, if in a course approved for satisfaction of an area requirement, a student receives a grade of C or lower, then that student's Advisory Committee will review the student's other work and make a recommendation to the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head as to whether the students should be allowed a second attempt to pass the area requirement in question, or whether the student should be asked to withdraw from the program. If the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head decide to grant the student a second attempt to satisfy the requirement, the student may be required either to take additional courses or to take a general examination in the area.

No Double Dipping
A (token) course used to satisfy one area requirement will not count towards satisfying any other area requirement.

Substitution Requests

The Appendix to this document indicates which area requirements the department's courses satisfy. If a student wishes to have a course counted towards satisfaction of an area requirement other than the one indicated in the Appendix, the following rules apply:

(a)   The student must submit a substitution proposal to his or her Advisory Committee for approval.
(b)   The student should consult with the instructor in charge of the course before the beginning of the semester. The instructor, at his or her discretion, may tailor course requirements to better match the student's work with the area requirement being fulfilled.
(c)   In problematic cases, the student's Advisory Committee should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies. The authority to approve or deny a substitution request lies with the Graduate Committee and ultimately with the Department Head.

Directed Reading Courses

Normally, at most one 590 (Directed Reading Course) will be counted towards the fulfillment of area requirements (one total, not one per area). Exceptions may be made if a course needed to fulfill a requirement is not available.

Logic Course Requirement for the Logic, Language, and Science Area

It is expected that students will have taken the approved course in logic for this area requirement, which is normally PHIL 580 or 650, by the end of their second year, unless they plan to satisfy the Logic, Language, and Science requirement by examination.

E. The Foreign Language or Other Tools of Research Requirement

Before a student may advance to Ph.D. candidacy, he or she must satisfy this requirement in one of two ways:

> **Option 1** (default): reading competence in one foreign language is required. This language must be German, Ancient Greek, French, or Latin unless the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head recommend that some other language be substituted if it is deemed useful to the student's research. This requirement must be satisfied either by means of a written translation examination administered by the Department of Philosophy or by passing (with a grade of B or better) the appropriate 205 (or analogous) course in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. (Additional languages may be required by the nature of the student's Ph.D. research; this shall be determined by the student's dissertation committee.) A student sitting for the translation examination will be allowed the use of a lexicon and a dictionary. The exam time will be 90 minutes. The examiner(s) will be appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies from among the faculty of the Philosophy Department.

> **Option 2** (special permission required) An alternative way to satisfy this requirement is by taking two courses of a similar subject matter outside of philosophy that are deemed useful to a student's dissertation research. Students desiring to take this alternative pathway must
>   1)   Discuss with and get the approval of their advisory committee
>   2)   Submit a one-page written justification laying out the grounds for taking this pathway and stating how it will benefit their planned research
>   3)   Get the approval of the Graduate Committee

F. The Residency Requirement

The total number of hours of academic credit used to satisfy residency requirements consists of all course credit hours that appear on the plan of study, other graduate course credit hours with grades of C or better that appear on the Purdue transcript, and research hours that appear on the Purdue transcript.

1. At least **one-third** of the total credit hours used to satisfy the degree requirements must be earned (while registered for doctoral study) **in continuous residence** on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted.
2. At least **90** credit hours are **required**.
3. Graduate courses taken from any accredited university may contribute **30** credit hours toward satisfying this residency requirement, provided those credit hours have not been applied toward another degree.

In fulfilling these requirements, a maximum of **18** credit hours will be allowed from any one semester.

G. Progress Through the Ph.D. Program

Timetable for Completing the Area Requirements

During the first stage of the program, students will normally take three or four classes a semester, until all the course work for their area requirements is completed. Students are *encouraged* to complete at least one of their area requirements by the end of their first year and *required* to complete:

(a)   at least **two** area requirements by the end of their **second** year;
(b)   **all** area requirements by the end of their **third** year.

In case of extenuating circumstances, students may petition the Graduate Committee to be excused from one or more of these requirements.

Reviews

There are important reviews of each graduate student in February of each year. Positive reviews each year are required to remain in good standing in the program. A comprehensive review takes place in the fall of the *third* year of study, and a positive review at this stage is required to continue on to the Ph.D. Students whose fall third year review is negative may be asked to leave the Ph.D. program. In such cases, students may nonetheless receive the M.A. degree if the requirements for that degree have been satisfied.

Choosing a Dissertation Topic and Selecting a Committee

Students should choose a dissertation topic, form a committee, and start working on their dissertation during their third year. It is expected that students defend their prospectus by the end of the third year or early in their fourth. To remain in good standing, students must successfully defend the prospectus by the end of their fourth year. Ideally, students should complete the dissertation within two years, i.e., by the end of their fifth year.

Registering for Research Credits

Students who have begun working on their dissertation must register for the minimum number of research credits (**3**) every semester until the degree is granted. Failure to do so may require students to reapply for admission to the program before their degree can be granted. Also, any student holding a Purdue-funded fellowship, teaching assistantship, or research assistantship must be registered as a full-time student (that is for more than 7 credit hours).

The Five Year Rule

Students must complete all requirements for the Ph.D., including the dissertation and the final public oral exam, by the end of the semester that falls in the fifth calendar year after the semester of a

<u>successful prospectus defense.</u> (For example, a student who successfully defends a prospectus in September 2015 must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. by December 2020.)

Finishing the Dissertation and Getting Ready for the Job Market
Students are encouraged to complete their dissertations during the first part of the year in which they plan to enter the job market, as the application and interviewing process for jobs is time consuming.

H. The Plan of Study

In their second year of study, graduate students must file with the Graduate School a formal *Plan of Study*, which guides academic progress and serves as an academic contract between the student, the advisory committee, and the Graduate School. A Plan of Study can be modified after it is originally filed. All departmental and Graduate School policies related to filing or modifying a Plan of Study must be followed.

Students should file their plan of study electronically. Access to the electronic Plan of Study Generator (POSG) is via the MyPurdue portal. MyPurdue can be found at http://www.mypurdue.purdue.edu. The link for the Plan of Study Generator (POSG) is located under the Academic link. The Graduate School provides access to the POSG.

Instructions for Electronically Filing the Plan of Study
- Once you are in the Academic tab, click on the POSG link. A new browser window will open with the Graduate School links available to you.
- To begin filing your plan of study, click on the *Plan of Study Generator* link, and then click on the *Create New Plan of Study* link. Once in the POSG, refer to the Help buttons located on each page to assist you in using the electronic POSG.
- You do not need to complete the entire form in one sitting; you may save your plan of study and return to it later.
- You may not bookmark any pages within the Graduate School link. To return to the POSG, you must login to MyPurdue.

Instructions for Receiving Approval for the Plan of Study
- When you have completed your plan of study and feel it is ready for review of your advisory committee, submit your plan as a Draft.
- All plans of study must first be submitted as a Draft before you can submit your plan as a Final. While your plan is in Draft status, review it with your advisory committee and the Director of Graduate Studies to ensure that it satisfies department and Graduate School policies.
- Use your draft as a basis to discuss your academic and research goals with your advisory committee members.
- Once your committee has accepted your plan of study, return to the POSG and submit your plan as "Final." The plan of study form will be electronically routed, reviewed and, if approved, signed by your departmental coordinator, your advisory committee, the head of your graduate program, and the Graduate School. You may check the status of your plan at any time by returning to the POSG and clicking on the Display Submitted Plan of Study link.
- Once the Graduate School has approved your plan of study, you should check it every semester to monitor your academic degree progress.

For help with the Plan of Study, some useful links can be found at the [Graduate School Policy and Procedures Manual (see section VII).](#)

I. The Annual Review

The Evaluation Meeting
Every year, typically in the spring semester, the Graduate Committee meets to evaluate the progress of all graduate students. At this meeting, the Committee will evaluate the graduate students independently of considerations of financial aid. At a later meeting, financial aid will be allocated on the basis of the Committee's evaluations.

Graduate Student Meetings with the Director of Graduate Studies
Early in the spring semester the Director of Graduate Studies informs the graduate students of the date for the Evaluation Meeting. Prior to the Evaluation Meeting, each graduate student needs to schedule a meeting with the Director of Graduate Studies to review the student's progress through the program thus far. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that the Graduate Committee has full, accurate, and up-to-date information about his or her progress. Graduate students' progress will be assessed as either ***Satisfactory, Satisfactory with Reservations,* or *Unsatisfactory***.

Third Year Comprehensive Review
Each graduate student will also get a **Comprehensive Review** during the spring of his or her **third year** of study. A positive review at this stage is required to continue in the program. This Comprehensive Review is conducted by the DGS, and will take into account grades, faculty reports, and other indicators of past and potential in scholarship, teaching, and overall conduct and departmental citizenship. Students whose Comprehensive Review is negative may be asked to leave the Ph.D. program with an M.A.

Decisions to deny a graduate student from entering the next stage of the Ph.D. program will be made not by the DGS alone but by the graduate committee collectively. Such decisions will be reported to all tenured and tenure-earning faculty members in the Department prior to any final action being taken. A single member can call a department meeting at which a majority vote of the members present can overturn the graduate committee's decision.

Late Stage Non-Performance
In rare cases, graduate students have advanced to candidacy but fail, <u>by the 5th calendar year after the prospectus defense</u>, to complete their dissertation or to schedule their final oral examination. In such cases, the Department Head will, after consulting with the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Committee, decide whether the student should be terminated from the program or given a grace year to complete all requirements. (See Section E, Progress Through the Ph.D. Program, above.)

J. The Prospectus Defense and the Dissertation Requirement

The Dissertation Director and Committee
Upon completing the area requirements and the language requirement, a student must, in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, choose a Director for his or her dissertation, and select a dissertation committee composed of three faculty members. (The Director is also the chair of the dissertation committee.)

The Prospectus Defense
The student should compose a dissertation prospectus and submit it to the committee. When the members of this committee have read the prospectus and discussed it with the student, the Dissertation Director will schedule a defense of the prospectus, in order to determine whether the student's background is sufficient for dealing with the topic. After successfully defending the prospectus, the student advances to Ph.D. candidacy.

The Dissertation
The student will write the dissertation under the direction of his or her Dissertation Director. It is not required that the dissertation consist of a lengthy treatment of a single topic. A small collection of original research papers on a variety of topics, related or disparate, is permissible, provided the work on each is of dissertation quality. The dissertation must not exceed 350 pages.

The Dissertation Seminar
Each student must officially sign up for and take PHIL 680 Dissertation Seminar at least once, ideally in their 4th or 5th year. This course is will continue to be offered once an academic year, typically but not always in the spring semester. Students may take it Pass/Fail or for a full grade.

The Dissertation Defense
When the work is completed and judged by the student and the committee to be an original and significant contribution to philosophy, the student will stand for a final oral defense of the dissertation before his or her committee, a 'fourth reader' appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies, and other interested or invited persons. The defense cannot be scheduled until all members of the committee and the fourth reader have received copies of the final version of the dissertation and have had sufficient time to read it carefully.

K. The Policy for Mentoring and Evaluating Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistantships
These fall into three different categories:
(i)   *Graders* who assist professors by grading assignments and exams. Typically, the following classes employ graders:
      207   Ethics for Technology, Engineering and Design;
      230   Religions of the East;
      231   Religions of the West;
      280   Ethics and Animals;
      290   Environmental Ethics.
(ii) Graduate students who are *Teaching Assistants* grading for large courses and leading multiple recitation sections. These large classes typically involve recitations:
      110   Introduction to Philosophy;
      111   Ethics;
      206   Philosophy of Religion;
      260   Philosophy and Law;
      270   Biomedical Ethics.
(iii) Graduate students who are *Instructors* of individual sections of some of our introductory courses. These courses typically include single or multiple sections of:
      110   Introduction to Philosophy;
      111   Introduction to Ethics;
      114   Global Ethics;
      120   Critical Thinking;
      150   Principles of Logic;

Occasionally, graduate student Instructors teach other courses as well, e.g. 225, Philosophy and Gender.

Thus, while all graduate students with teaching assignments (except for research assistants) are TAs in the generic sense of the term, there are three kinds of TAs: Graders, Teaching Assistants, and Instructors. The abbreviation 'TA' is used for the generic sense of 'teaching assistant', whereas 'Teaching Assistant' refers to TAs in category (ii).

TA Orientation and Development

First time instructors (including graders and teaching assistants) must attend (the big session of) Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation and one micro-teaching session **before** their first semester begins. At some point **during** their first semester in front of a classroom, they must also attend at least one additional micro-teaching session, and one college teaching workshop. These can be used towards Graduate Teaching Certificates issued by Purdue's Center for Instructional Excellence, which we strongly encourage graduate students to pursue.

Evaluation of TA Performance

The evaluating of TAs serves the following purposes:

- to help graduate students to improve their performance as graders and teachers;
- to ensure that the undergraduates taught by Philosophy TAs receive high quality instruction in their courses;
- to assist the Graduate Committee in assessing TA performance, which is an important criterion for assigning teaching assistantships to the department's graduate students;
- to gather evidence about a graduate student's teaching abilities and overall performance as a TA, which will become part of the student's dossier once he or she applies for jobs.

Faculty members who have TAs in categories (i) and (ii) are expected to evaluate their TAs at the end of the semester. TAs in category (iii) will be evaluated by their assigned mentors, which are usually the Course Coordinators for the 100-level courses. This evaluation—which for TAs in category (ii) and (iii) should involve classroom observation—consists of two parts:

(a) a brief written report for the TA's file, to be submitted to the graduate secretary as an e-mail attachment;

(b) a meeting with the TA to provide the TA with helpful feedback on and discussion of his or her performance and student evaluations.

Again, the written evaluation is intended to be useful (i) to the student in improving her or his teaching, (ii) to the department in assessing performance and making future assignments, and (iii), in some form, to potential employers in the future. A TA's departmental teaching letter, prepared when he or she goes on the job market, will include the text of these written mentor evaluations, with some appropriate redactions. TA's have access to, and are encouraged to review, their evaluations

TA Mentoring and Mentee Responsibilities

Graduate student Instructors must, for each semester, have a mentor. In most cases, these mentors are the Course Coordinators for the 100-level courses. Mentors are expected to supervise a TA's teaching and help him or her grow as a teacher. More specifically, the mentor's role involves:

i. Assisting the graduate student Instructor in choosing a textbook.

Mentee Responsibility: Since text books must be ordered by the beginning of student registration towards the end of the preceding semester, the timing of this is important. Graduate student Instructors must, within ten days of receiving their appointment letter, contact their mentors to discuss the choice of a suitable textbook.

ii. Helping the graduate student Instructor in constructing an appropriate syllabus.

Mentee Responsibility: Graduate student Instructors must present to their mentors a draft of the syllabus at least four weeks before the beginning of the semester.

iii. Assisting the Instructor in developing appropriate grading standards.
      Mentee Responsibility: Graduate students must prepare an outline of their grading standards and present them to their mentors together with the syllabus.

iv. Mentor-mentee meetings throughout the semester, scheduled as needed, to discuss problems the student might encounter in teaching his or her course.
      Mentee Responsibility: Graduate students must schedule a monthly meeting with their mentor, or more frequent meetings if needed.

v. Arranging for a classroom visit to observe the student's teaching.
      Mentee Responsibility: Reminding the mentor to schedule a classroom visit.

vi. Submitting a brief written report about the student's performance as an instructor.

vii. If needed, meeting with the student at the end of the semester to discuss his or her performance and student evaluations.

Steps (i) and (ii) involve consulting the departmental document *Common Contents and Text Requirements*, which will be provided to both the mentor and the mentee by the Department Head.

II. The M.A. PROGRAM

The M.A. degree may be awarded under either of two options. The thesis option requires 24 hours of approved course work, plus a thesis. The non-thesis option requires 33 hours of approved course work. M.A. students are expected to form an advisory committee, and to work with the committee to develop a balanced program. If the thesis option is chosen, the thesis is normally expected to be approximately 60-90 pages—equivalent to three term papers. The department does not award teaching assistantships to students in the M.A. program.

A student wishing to obtain the M.A. degree in philosophy may be allowed to use up to three courses (9 credit hours) of coursework at a comparable institution to count towards the M.A. degree at Purdue, provided those courses have not been applied toward any other degree. Any such use of transfer credit must be approved by the Graduate Committee before the Master's Plan of Study form will be sent to the Graduate School.

The Residency Requirements for the M.A. Degree

The total number of hours of academic credit used to satisfy residency requirements consists of all course credit hours that appear on the plan of study, other graduate course credit hours with grades of C or better that appear on the Purdue transcript, and research hours that appear on the Purdue transcript.

At least one-half of the total credit hours used to satisfy degree requirements must be earned in residence on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted. Course credits obtained via televised instruction from a campus shall be considered to have been obtained in residence on that campus. At least 30 total credit hours are required.

APPENDIX: COURSES SATISFYING AREA REQUIREMENTS

The following list indicates the area requirements that each course is normally used to satisfy; where two area requirements are listed, the student may choose the area towards which the course will count in their case. If a student wishes to use a course for an area not mentioned on this list, special arrangements, described under "The Course Option: Guidelines and Further Details" above, must be made.

501: Studies in Greek Philosophy (History)
502: Studies in Medieval Philosophy (History)
503: Studies in Early Modern Philosophy (History)
505: Islamic and Jewish Philosophy and the Classical Tradition (History)
506: Advanced Philosophy of Religion (Metaphysics and Epistemology)
507: Recent American Philosophy (Metaphysics and Epistemology)
510: Phenomenology (Metaphysics and Epistemology)
514: 20th Century Analytic Philosophy I (History; Metaphysics and Epistemology; Philosophy of Language)
515: 20th Century Analytic Philosophy II (Metaphysics and Epistemology; Logic, Language & Science)
520: Existentialism (Value Theory)
524: Contemporary Ethical Theory (Ethics)
525: Studies in Metaphysics (Metaphysics)
530: Deconstructionist and Postmodernist Philosophy (Value Theory)
532: Studies in Theory of Knowledge (Epistemology)
535: Studies in Philosophy of Mind (Metaphysics)
540: Studies in Social and Political Philosophy (Value Theory)
542: Rationality and Relativism: African American Perspectives (Variable: consult advisory committee)
545: Recent Analytic Philosophy (Variable: consult advisory committee)
550: Advanced Symbolic Logic (Logic)
551: Philosophy of the Natural Sciences (Philosophy of Science; Epistemology)
552: Philosophy of the Social Sciences (Philosophy of Science)
555: Critical Theory (Variable: consult advisory committee)
557: Medieval Political Thought and Philosophy (History; Value Theory)
560: Studies in Eastern Philosophy (Variable: consult advisory committee)
575: Problems in Aesthetics (Value Theory)
576: Philosophy and Literature (Value Theory)
580: Metalogic (Logic)
601: Special Topics in Ancient Philosophy (History)
610: Recent Continental Philosophy (Variable: consult advisory committee)
624: Seminar in Ethics (Ethics)
650: Advanced Topics in Logic (Logic)
665: Philosophy of Language (Philosophy of Language)
672: Philosophy of Logic (Philosophy of Logic)
680: Dissertation Seminar
683: Studies in Continental Rationalism (History)
684: Studies in British Empiricism (History)
685: The Philosophy of Kant (History)