

PHILOSOPHY, PHD

The Penn Philosophy Department has a long and distinguished history. Philosophy has been taught at the University since 1755, and Penn was among the first universities in the country to offer the PhD degree in Philosophy, in 1882. The Department has always prized breadth, and its members are prepared to supervise advanced research in metaphysics and epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, logic, philosophy of language, ethics, social and political philosophy, philosophy of law, and the history of philosophy.

The Ph.D. program includes course work, a teaching requirement, a preliminary examination, and the preparation and defense of a dissertation. Required coursework includes two courses in contemporary epistemology and metaphysics (including philosophy of science, mind, language, and mathematics); two courses in value theory (ethics, political or legal philosophy, aesthetics); three courses in history of philosophy, and a logic requirement.

For more information: <http://philosophy.sas.upenn.edu/graduate> (<http://philosophy.sas.upenn.edu/graduate/>)

Required Courses

Code	Title	Course Units
Philosophy Proseminar		
PHIL 6000	Proseminar	1
Logic Requirement		
PHIL 5710	Introduction to Logic (or satisfied by examination)	1
or PHIL 6723	Introduction to Mathematical Logic	
History of Philosophy Requirement		
Select three courses ¹		3
Attribute HDPH - PhD History of Philosophy (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdph/)		
Value Theory		
Select two courses		2
Attribute HDPV - PhD Value Theory (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdpv/)		
Contemporary Metaphysics & Epistemology		
Select two courses		2
Attribute HDPM - PHIL PhD Mtpphys&Epstlgy (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdpm/)		
Other Philosophy or Approved Courses		
Select eight courses ²		8
Dissertation Workshop		
PHIL 7000	Dissertation Workshop	1
Preliminary Examination		
PHIL 9999	Independent Study (Fall and Spring, for 2CU over the year)	2
Teaching Practicum		
4 semesters of teaching are required		
Total Course Units		20

University PhD Benchmarks

In addition to Program requirements, the following milestones must be completed:

Code	Title	Course Units
Qualifying Evaluation		
Candidacy Examination		
Dissertation Defense/Oral Exam		
Dissertation Deposit		

For more information view the University's Academic Rules for PhD Programs (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/academic-rules-phd/>).

- ¹ Must include one course in ancient and one course in early modern through Kant.
- ² One course unit must be a regularly offered Philosophy course.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Ethics & Legal Studies and Philosophy, PhD

The joint PhD in Ethics & Legal Studies (ETLS) and Philosophy (PHIL) at Wharton and in SAS focuses on the study of ethics and law in business. The joint PhD provides a fruitfully complementary program of study as business ethics has its genesis in moral philosophy, and a significant strand of business ethics scholarship draws on moral philosophy. At the same time, Philosophy programs are increasingly keen to provide their students with training in applied ethics as applied ethics—and especially business ethics—is increasingly in demand as an area of competence for hires in Philosophy. We expect that the joint PhD will thus offer business ethics students a more thorough grounding in the subject's key foundational discipline; it will also give philosophy students a specialization in an area of applied ethics that will benefit them on the job market. Faculty and student interests for those pursuing the joint PhD range over topics including international business ethics and human rights, corporate governance, ethical conduct in business, social impact, environmental law and policy, securities, equality in law and ethics, normative political theory, negotiations, corporate constitutional rights, and corporate criminal law.

For more information regarding the Ethics and Legal Studies, PhD: <https://lgst.wharton.upenn.edu/programs/phd/>

For more information regarding the Philosophy, PhD: <http://philosophy.sas.upenn.edu/graduate> (<http://philosophy.sas.upenn.edu/graduate/>)

Curriculum

The course of study for the Ph.D. requires the completion of sixteen graduate course units for ETLS students and twenty graduate course

units for PHIL students. Some graduate-level credit from courses at other universities may transfer to Wharton.

Joint Ethics & Legal Studies & Philosophy Requirements

Code	Title	Course Units
Ethics & Legal Studies Core Requirements		
<i>Legal Studies Requirements</i>		4
LGST 9200	Ethics in Business and Economics	
LGST 9210	Foundations of Business Law	
Select two additional Legal Studies courses		
<i>Statistics Requirements</i>		2
STAT 5000	Applied Regression and Analysis of Variance	
STAT 5010	Introduction to Nonparametric Methods and Log-linear Models	
<i>Economics Course</i>		1
<i>Ethical Theory Course</i>		1
Philosophy Core Requirements		
PHIL 6000	Proseminar (Value Theory)	1
Value Theory (Attribute HDPV) (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdpv/)		1
Theoretical Philosophy (Attribute APLT) (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/aplt/)		1
History of Philosophy (Attribute HDPH) (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdph/)		1
<i>Logic Course</i>		1
PHIL 5710	Introduction to Logic	
	or PHIL 6723 Introduction to Mathematical Logic	
Select three additional Philosophy courses with approval		3
Total Course Units		16

Philosophy Requirements

Code	Title	Course Units
Primary PHL students take the above 16 credits plus must satisfy the following (part of which may be accomplished within their 3 CU PHIL elective requirement)		
Teaching Practicum		
Four semesters		4
Dissertation Workshop		
PHIL 7000	Dissertation Workshop	1
Preliminary Examination		
PHIL 9999	Independent Study	2
Total Course Units		7