

University of Kansas
Department of Philosophy
Graduate Handbook

**Guidelines and Information for
Graduate Students**

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GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PHILOSOPHY

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This document is subordinate to university policies and the university's academic catalog.

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1. ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

1.1 Departmental Prerequisites for Graduate Standing

Students seeking the Master's or Doctoral degree, if admitted without deficiencies, must have taken the following (or an equivalent): a course in symbolic logic, a course in value theory, a course in the history of modern philosophy, a course in the history of ancient philosophy, a course in theoretical philosophy, a course in philosophical traditions. Deficiencies should be made up early in the candidate's graduate work.

1.2 Departmental Admission Requirements

- A. The Department has also adopted a policy permitting the Committee on Recruitment, Admission, and Awards to decide, when appropriate, that a student who applies for admission to the Ph.D. program be admitted, not to the Ph.D. program, but to the M.A. program. Further, students in the M.A. program may enter the Ph.D. program only upon successful petition to the Department.
- B. In addition to other application materials (application form, application fee, letters of recommendation, course transcripts, etc.), all applicants for admission to the graduate program may be asked to provide some or all of the following.
 - 1. Graduate Record Examination Scores (verbal, quantitative, analytical) or Law School Admission Test Scores (for applicants to the joint J.D./M.A. program)
 - 2. a writing sample—preferably a sample of philosophical prose of approximately 10-15 pages
 - 3. a brief statement of academic goals
 - 4. a C.V. or resume
- C. Applicants not admitted to the philosophy graduate program may apply to the program as a 'nondegree seeking student' and take philosophy courses if they have satisfied the prerequisites, etc. It is possible that a student who does well in philosophy enrollments and acquires supporting letters from KU faculty (and meets all other requirements for admission) may reapply to the graduate program at a later date. However, as a general rule, rejected applicants are not encouraged to do this unless they are excellent candidates who merely lack background courses required for regular admission and have been recommended to apply as 'non-degree seeking' by the Director of Graduate Studies. It should be clearly understood that the Department in no way is obligated to admit such students when and if they reapply to the graduate program.

1.3 Enrollment in the Graduate Program

All students entering the graduate program must enroll in PHIL 800, Graduate Tutorial, within their first academic year.

1.4 Departmental and University Graduate Student Petitions

Graduate students can present written petitions to the Department regarding University policy or departmental program requirements. The petition is given to the Director of Graduate Studies, who then presents it to the graduate faculty of the Department. In cases where the requirement is departmental, the graduate faculty will issue a final decision (e.g. that the student may be exempt from a Ph.D. course requirement based on coursework taken at the M.A. level at a previous institution). In cases of a University policy or requirement petition, the graduate faculty will decide whether or not to support the student's petition. If the faculty opts to support the petition, the Department will submit the petition and a letter of endorsement to the College Office of Graduate Affairs on the student's behalf. If the faculty declines to support the petition, the matter is effectively decided.

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Degrees Offered

The Department of Philosophy offers the following graduate degrees:

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Joint Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) and Master of Arts (M.A.)

Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The requirements for each degree are detailed in the "Philosophy" section of the [Graduate Catalog](#). The material in these Guidelines is intended to supplement and clarify the requirements listed in the Catalog.

2.2 M.A. Degree

The Department offers four ways to complete the Master of Arts in Philosophy.

A. Thesis Option

1. Course Requirements

- a. at least 30 hours of graduate courses in philosophy (each with a grade of B– or better and a GPA of at least 3.0 over all graduate courses in philosophy) including at least 15 hours in courses numbered 800 or above (including 3 hours of PHIL 800 Tutorial and up to 6 hours of PHIL 899 Master's Thesis)
- b. PHIL 800 Graduate Tutorial (in the first year)
- c. at least two courses at the 500 level or above in each of the following areas: (1) Metaphysics or Epistemology, (2) Value Theory, and (3) History of Philosophy. Courses taken during the student's undergraduate career may count toward this distribution requirement, but not toward the 30-hour requirement unless the student received graduate credit for those courses. The exact list of courses that satisfy the distribution requirement are listed in the catalog.

2. Thesis Requirements

a. Enrollment and Grading

- i. A maximum of 6 hours of PHIL 899 Master's Thesis may be counted toward the M.A. degree. A student may enroll in this course for three hours in each of two consecutive semesters or for six hours in one semester.
- ii. The grading scale SP / LP / NP will be used to indicate research and writing progress in PHIL 899. Regular contact with the thesis advisor and steady progress will generally yield a grade of SP (Satisfactory Progress). Failure to maintain regular contact can result in a grade of LP (Limited Progress) or NP (No Progress). For more information, see section 3.

b. Committee and Writing

- i. The student interested in writing a thesis should decide on a tentative topic and field and then consult with an appropriate faculty member to ascertain whether that faculty member will serve as advisor. Preliminary discussion about an appropriate advisor may take place with the Director of Graduate Studies or the Department Chair, if the student so desires.
- ii. The student and advisor will then jointly select two other persons, possessing appropriate competence in the area of the thesis, to serve as members of the thesis committee. The character of the thesis may be such that it will be necessary to go outside the department,

or in exceptional cases even outside the university, for an appropriately competent third member of the committee.

A. In general, the student will work most closely with the advisor. In many cases, the student will work exclusively with the advisor until the completion of what they both regard as a satisfactory draft of the thesis. Nevertheless, throughout the process, the student should feel free to consult the other two members of the committee (as well as the advisor). iv. The other two members of the committee must be afforded a reasonable interval within which to read the thesis and suggest revisions. A draft of the thesis must be approved by two of the three members of the committee in order for the student to proceed to thesis defense via oral exam.

I. A length of 10,000–12,000 words is generally recommended, although the student’s advisor may recommend exceptions to this range in particular cases.

II. Defense

- i. Preliminary scheduling of the thesis defense will take place in consultation with the Graduate Academic Advisor within the first two weeks of the semester in which the student plans to complete the degree.
- ii. The thesis defense, typically 60–90 minutes in duration, is chaired by the student’s advisor. Any philosophical issue that is relevant to the thesis may be explored. Any faculty member of the department may attend, ask questions, and take part in the deliberation concerning the quality of the thesis and defense, but only the three members of the committee may vote. Other graduate students and other persons may also attend (as space permits) but are ineligible to ask questions or attend the deliberation concerning the quality of the thesis and defense.
- iii. An outcome of either satisfactory, unsatisfactory, or honors – as decided by a majority of the three members of the thesis committee – will be reported to the College Office of Graduate Affairs. After a successful defense, the student must format and submit the thesis in accordance with the regulations and deadlines of the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs. After an unsuccessful defense, the student may be asked to modify the thesis or simply to redefend it at a later date.

B. Non-Thesis Option for M.A. Students

1. Coursework Requirements: Same as above except the student substitutes six credits of acceptable (B– or better) graduate coursework in courses numbered 800 or above in place of thesis credits (PHIL 899).
2. Oral comprehensive examination over M.A. coursework conducted by a three-member faculty committee. The specific format of the exam can be decided by the student and the committee, but a frequently used option is for the student and advisor to select (and perhaps subsequently revise) a paper written for a class for the committee’s review to question the student about that work.

C. Non-Thesis Option for Ph.D. Students

This applies to Ph.D. students who successfully complete PHIL 901: Ph.D. Tutorial in accordance with the requirements of the Ph.D. program. The conditions for satisfying this option are as follows:

1. The student has previously been admitted to the Ph.D. program.
2. The student has satisfied the M.A. distribution and course level requirements.
3. The student is eligible to take PHIL 901 in accordance with the specified time frame.

D. Fast-Track Option (for those with a KU undergraduate philosophy degree)

1. Admission Requirements
 - a. All requirements for a bachelor’s in philosophy from KU complete or in progress

- b. b. GPA of 3.5 in philosophy
 - c. GRE not required, though the department will consider GRE scores as part of an application
- 2. Degree Requirements

Students must complete all of the following requirements for the Fast-Track M.A. within one calendar year post-bachelor's:

 - a. 24 credit hours of graduate coursework (500-level or above) in philosophy post-bachelor's with a grade of B or higher. At least 15 of these hours must be in courses numbered 800 or above. Students must complete two courses at the 500-level or above (or the equivalent) in each of these areas: history of philosophy, metaphysics and epistemology (broadly construed), and value theory. Courses taken during the undergraduate career may be counted toward these area requirements, but such work does not count toward the 24-hour graduate credit requirement unless the student took the course work for graduate credit and has department approval.
 - b. PHIL 800 Tutorial with a grade of B or higher
 - c. An M.A. exam consisting of the oral defense of a seminar paper chosen by the student before a three-member faculty committee, appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the student and the relevant faculty members. The student must inform the Director of Graduate Studies at the beginning of the spring semester which paper they will defend. Scheduling and structure of the exam will follow that of the oral examination in the case of a M.A. thesis-option degree with the exception that the examination will concern only the paper that the student has chosen.
- 3. Time Limits and Other Restrictions
 - a. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the first semester of graduate study in order to maintain eligibility for the program. They will be subject to a formal mid-year review to ensure satisfactory progress towards completion of the degree.
 - b. A student who receives a bachelor's degree in Spring or Summer begins the M.A. portion of the degree that Fall. The student must then complete all requirements for the Fast-Track M.A. by the first day of classes the following Fall. For example, if a student receives the bachelor's in Spring 2014 and is accepted into this M.A. track, that student begins the additional year of coursework in Fall 2014 and must complete all requirements for the Fast-Track M.A. by the first day of classes in Fall 2015. Similarly, a student who receives the bachelor's in the Fall begins the M.A. portion of the degree in the Spring. The student must then complete all requirements for the Fast-Track M.A. by the first day of classes the following Spring. If a student does not complete the Fast-Track M.A. requirements within one year post-bachelor's, the student may petition the department for admission to the standard 30-hour M.A. track. In extraordinary circumstances, for example, serious illness, students may petition the department to remain in the 24-hour track.

2.3 Joint Degree Program in Law and Philosophy / J.D. and M.A. in Philosophy Degrees

The program combines into three years and one summer session the normal three-year J.D. program offered by the School of Law and the three-semester M.A. in Philosophy program offered by the Department of Philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students in the program complete eighty-one credits in law and twenty-one credits in philosophy. The J.D. and M.A. diplomas will be awarded concurrently after completion of the joint-degree program requirements.

Admissions Requirements

The joint J.D.-M.A. program is open to those who have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and whose undergraduate academic record indicates that the applicant has the capacity to complete the law and philosophy program. Applicants for the J.D.-M.A. in Philosophy

program must meet the admission requirements of the School of Law, the Department of Philosophy, and Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs. Applicants must apply and be admitted to each school separately prior to entrance into the first year of the program. The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is the only required entrance examination for applicants. All admissions requirements and prerequisites for courses in the Philosophy graduate program also apply. A student who decides to enter the program while enrolled in the first year of the J.D. or M.A. in Philosophy curriculum must consult and obtain approval from the School of Law and the Department of Philosophy. No student may enter the combined program after completing more than thirty credits in the law school or twelve credits in the Department of Philosophy.

Typical Enrollment Pattern 1

	Law	Philosophy	Total
First Year	29	0	29
Second Year	18	12	30
Third Year	18	9	27
Summer Session	16	0	16
Total Credit Earned	81	21	102
Law Credit Allowed for M.A.		9	9
Philosophy Credit Allowed for J.D.	9		9
Total Credit Hours for J.D. / M.A.	90	30	120

Degree Requirements

	<u>Credit for J.D.</u>	<u>Credit for M.A.</u>
Law courses required of all J.D. candidates	44	0
Law courses for joint degree candidates	9	9
Philosophy courses for joint degree candidates	9	9
Additional law courses	28	0
Additional philosophy courses	0	12
Minimum credit hours required	90	30

B. In addition students should note the following rules applicable to the Philosophy M.A. in particular.

1. A student must complete two courses at the 500-level or above in each of the following three areas: (a) metaphysics, theory of knowledge, and philosophy of logic; (b) ethics and theory of value; (c) history of philosophy. A student will be given graduate credit provided the student is enrolled as a graduate student.
2. A student must either take an undergraduate course in logic (310, 610 or the equivalent) or pass an appropriate placement examination in symbolic logic if the student did not satisfy the symbolic logic admissions requirement.

Note: Courses taken during the student's undergraduate career may be counted toward requirement (1) or requirement (2).

3. A student must also have had Philosophy 800 (Graduate Tutorial) in the first or second semester of active graduate enrollment in Philosophy.

4. The M.A. in Philosophy in the joint program (with the J.D. degree) can be taken under either the thesis or the non-thesis option (see sections 2.2 and 2.12). Under either option the student will take a final general examination as is required of all candidates for the M.A. degree.
 5. The Philosophy M.A. requires that, of the 30 hours of work counted for the M.A. degree, a cumulative grade point of B or better must be achieved and at least 15 of those hours must be in courses numbered 700 or above, which could include 6 hours of Phil 899 (Master's Thesis).
- C. In order to accommodate the differences in grades recorded in Law and in the Graduate Program, the following standard will be used:
1. All Law coursework counted for the M.A. degree must be at a grade of C+ or better in order to receive M.A. credit.
 2. All Philosophy coursework counted for the J.D. degree must be at a grade of B or better; courses so qualified will be given law credit, will appear on the student's law transcript but will not be computed as part of the student's Law School G.P. A.
- D. Candidates for the joint J.D. and M.A. in Philosophy degrees should take note of the Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs requirement that at least a B cumulative grade point average (3.0) is required on coursework counted toward any of the master's degrees at the University of Kansas, and only courses on a A-F, +/- scale may be so counted (courses graded on the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale will not count towards degree). Students should understand that the grades received in any law courses that are credited toward fulfillment of the M.A. in Philosophy degree requirements are incorporated into the M.A. grade point average, which ultimately must be B (3.0) for the award of the M.A., in Philosophy degree. For further information students should consult the KU Academic Catalog online.
- E. The pertinent courses in Law offered for the 9 hours credit towards the M.A. in Philosophy must, as is true of all other Philosophy graduate-degree enrollments, be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy. Likewise, the pertinent courses in Philosophy offered for the 9 hours credit towards the J.D. must be approved by the Associate Dean or by the Academic Committee of the School of Law.
- F. All Joint Degree Candidates must satisfy the School of Law upperclass writing requirement. Please consult the current School of Law Catalog.

2.4 Ph.D.

- A. Overall Hours Requirement: Complete at least 39 credit hours of graduate work in regular philosophy courses numbered 500 or above with grades in each course of at least B-, and an overall GPA in all graduate philosophy courses of better than B. At least 24 of the 39 hours must be at the 800 level or above (including PHIL 800 Tutorial and PHIL 901 Research Tutorial). Additional hours in PHIL 999 Dissertation, beyond the 39 hour requirement, are required as appropriate in accordance with the rules of the University and the Department.
- B. Complete PHIL 800 Graduate Tutorial with a grade of B- or better in the first year of enrollment.
- C. Upon entering the program, students must demonstrate competence in symbolic logic by passing a placement exam with a grade of B or higher. Students who do not pass the placement exam with a grade of B or higher, or who choose not to take the placement exam, must enroll in [PHIL 310](#) for additional preparatory training and pass with a grade of B or higher.
- D. Ph.D. Distribution Requirement: Students are required to complete at least seven courses from the following areas distributed as below. Note the 500-600 level courses listed as prerequisite options after 800 level seminars.

Completion of up to 6 credits of PHIL 600: Readings in Philosophy coursework may satisfy course distribution requirements. Any further requests may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY - 2 courses

620 Philosophy of Natural Science
 622 Philosophy of Social Science
 630 Philosophy of Mathematics
 638 Philosophy of Language
 648 Theory of Knowledge
 650 Metaphysics
 654 Philosophy of Mind
 850 Topics in Recent Philosophy: 500-600 level course specified as appropriate (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in metaphysics and epistemology).
 860 Topics in Philosophy of Science: 620 or 622 or 648 or 650
 868 Topics in Philosophy of Language: 638 or 654
 870 Topics in Metaphysics: 620 or 630 or 648 or 650 or 654
 872 Topics in Theory of Knowledge: 620 or 648 or 650 or 654
 877 Topics in Philosophy of Mind: 638 or 650 or 654

VALUE THEORY - 2 courses

504 Philosophy of Sex and Love
 662 Aesthetics
 666 Rational Choice Theory
 668 Political Philosophy
 670 Contemporary Ethical Theory
 671 Feminist Theories in Ethics
 672 History of Ethics
 674 Philosophy of Law
 676 Death and Dying
 850 Topics in Recent Philosophy: 500-600 level course specified as appropriate (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in value theory). 880 Topics in Ethics: 670 or 672
 880 Topics in Ethics

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY -1 course

605 The Philosophy of Plato
 607 The Philosophy of Aristotle
 608 Hellenistic
 648: Epistemology (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in ancient philosophy)
 650: Metaphysics (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in ancient philosophy)
 805 Plato: 508 or 605 or 608 or 648 or 650
 807 Aristotle: 508 or 607 or 608 or 648 or 650
 820 Topics in History of Philosophy: 500-600 level course specified as appropriate (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in ancient philosophy).

MODERN PHILOSOPHY -1 course

557: Kant
 558 Seventeenth Century Philosophy
 559 Eighteenth Century Philosophy
 648: Epistemology (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in modern philosophy)
 650: Metaphysics (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in modern philosophy)
 654: Philosophy of Mind (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in modern philosophy)
 820 Topics in History of Philosophy: 500-600 level course specified as appropriate (when and only when seminar focuses on a topic in modern philosophy).
 824 Hume: 648 or 650 or 654

PHILOSOPHICAL TRADITIONS – 1 course

506 Chinese Thought

560 Nineteenth Century Philosophy

570 Nietzsche

582 Existentialism

590 Phenomenology

592 Contemporary Continental Philosophy

820 Topics in the History of Philosophy: _____ (if appropriate in content)

- E. PHIL 901 Graduate Research Tutorial: All Ph.D. students must complete PHIL 901 Research Tutorial. Students may not enroll in PHIL 901 prior to their third semester in the graduate program, and normally should enroll in PHIL 901 no later than their sixth semester. (Students who successfully petition to reduce the overall 39-hour requirement by as many as 18 hours should enroll in PHIL 901 no later than their fourth semester.)
1. Students enrolled in PHIL 901 do independent research on a topic approved by the faculty member with whom they enroll. This should result in a tightly focused 20-30 page research paper. The student's written work will be repeatedly evaluated over the semester by the faculty member and the final product must be defended in an oral examination conducted by a three-member graduate faculty committee (including the faculty member with whom the student is enrolled) appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies.
 2. The final draft of the student's paper is due no later than the end of the semester of PHIL 901 enrollment; or if the 901 enrollment is approved for the summer term, no later than the beginning of Fall classes.
 3. Committee members other than the director are responsible only for taking part in the examination, and are not expected to participate in the process of overseeing the repeated revisions of the tutorial paper.
 4. The committee will assign a grade. This grade is designed to express an overall assessment of the quality of the paper and the oral defense.
 5. If the examination is to confer an M.A., then the committee may also examine the student over any related coursework completed to date. In this case, an overall exam assessment of Satisfactory, Honors, or Unsatisfactory will be determined and indicated on the departmental Exam Outcome Form. Immediately following the exam, the Exam Outcome Form is signed by the committee director/chair and submitted to the Graduate Coordinator for degree requirement reporting to the College Office of Graduate Affairs and Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs.
 7. Passage of 901 will initiate a comprehensive review of the student's work to date. This review in some cases may result in recommendation that the student withdraw from further Ph.D. studies. In short: passage of 901 is not a sufficient condition for students to continue their Ph.D. studies.
- F. Must satisfy Research Skills & Responsible Scholarship requirement: (a) successful completion of PHIL 800 Graduate Tutorial; and (b) PHIL 901 Ph.D. Tutorial; and (c) either (i) demonstration of a reading knowledge of one of the following languages: French, German, Greek, Latin, or (ii) a language or course approved by the Department in response to the student's petition. Any student planning to write a dissertation dealing with primary texts written in a language or languages other than English must, before submitting the prospectus, prove an adequate reading knowledge of the relevant language or languages if the committee deems that necessary.
- G. Must pass the Comprehensive Oral Examination for Ph.D. candidacy. This examination cannot be taken until all of the above requirements have been completed or will be completed in the semester in which the examination is scheduled.

After satisfaction of the above requirements, the student is eligible to enroll in PHIL 999 Dissertation with their Dissertation Director. This enrollment must occur during the semester in which all of the above requirements will be completed.

- H. Students should also carefully review the [University Requirements and Policies](#) pertaining to Doctoral students, specifically policy regarding Post-comprehensive Enrollment, Minimum Tenure, Dissertation Defense, and degree completion.

2.5 Acceptable Course Work

Only courses in which the grade is at least B- will be counted towards fulfillment of the requirements for any of the above degrees.

2.6 PHIL 900 (Research in Philosophy)

PHIL 900 is offered only when a student needs to do advanced work in an area in which regular course offerings are not available in the Department. A maximum 6 credits of PHIL 900 coursework may be counted toward the requirement of 24 credits of Seminar (800+) courses IF the coursework yields a seminar paper. Students taking a regular course offering will not normally be permitted to enroll for that course under the PHIL 900 heading. Exceptions may be made only after consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.

2.7 Procedure for Prospectus and Comprehensive Oral Examination for Ph.D. Candidacy

- A. Committee: The student, perhaps in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, obtains the consent of a department faculty member who is willing to supervise comprehensive exam and prospectus work, chair the comprehensive exam committee, and serve as the dissertation advisor. The student enrolls in that faculty member's section of PHIL 999.
- B. In consultation with the anticipated advisor, and perhaps in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, the student obtains the consent of two additional department faculty members and a suitable faculty member from another department, as required by the university, to serve on the committee. **Students should carefully read policies regarding University Requirements for Exam Committee Composition.**
- C. The steps concerning the formation of the committee need not be completed before the student begins exam preparation work (which is described below). In some cases, a student may want to make some progress, presumably under the supervision of the anticipated advisor, before finalizing the committee. It shall be assumed that, unless decided otherwise, the student's Oral Comprehensive Exam committee will also be the student's dissertation-defense committee. After the exam, if the student's work evolves in such a way that a different committee is appropriate for the dissertation defense, all affected faculty members shall be notified of the change in committee membership.
- D. The dissertation prospectus: In consultation with the advisor and additional individuals whom the student may choose to consult, the student writes a prospectus. The prospectus should be between 3,000 and 6,000 words long.
- E. When the student's advisor approves the prospectus for committee review, the student's advisor circulates the document to the other members of the exam committee.
- F. Based on feedback from the committee, the student makes appropriate revisions to the prospectus.
- G. When the student's committee approves the prospectus for department review, the student's advisor circulates it to the department faculty with a request for comments, which will be compiled by the student's advisor. The student's prospectus must be circulated to the department faculty one week in advance of the student's oral examination. The Philosophy-department members of the student's committee review the faculty comments and determine whether further revisions are required.
- H. When the committee approves the prospectus, the student will be officially approved to take the oral exam at the scheduled date and time.
- I. The student is encouraged to have the oral exam not later than the end of the first semester of enrollment in PHIL 999 and must attempt the oral exam no later than the end of the subsequent semester. The exam should take about two hours and will include discussion of the prospectus through a breadth of philosophical areas and challenges to the work itself.

- J. At the conclusion of the oral exam, the committee determines the grade (honors, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory).
- K. The student's advisor communicates the committee's determination to the Director of Graduate Studies and the graduate academic advisor, who then reports the student's grade to the College Office of Graduate Affairs and Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs.
- L.
- M. If the student receives a grade of unsatisfactory on the comprehensive exam, the exam may be retaken with committee consent. If such consent is forthcoming, the student must retake the exam within five months. The scope of the second exam may be limited to a subset of the material covered in the initial exam, if the committee deems performance on part(s) of the initial exam to have been adequate. After the student retakes the exam, the advisor communicates the result to the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Program Coordinator, who reports the outcome to the College.
- N. If a student does not pass the oral exam, the committee may offer information on how to receive such approval. Examples of such steps include the following (in order of decreasing stringency): requiring another revision and oral defense of the prospectus, requiring prospectus revision and committee approval, and requiring prospectus revision and advisor approval. Even if the committee requires extensive revision, it need not solicit comments on the revised draft from the department faculty.

2.8 The Doctoral Dissertation

I. Dissertation Advisor

B. The student interested in writing a dissertation should decide on a tentative topic and field and then consult with an appropriate faculty member to ascertain whether that faculty member will serve as Advisor. Preliminary discussion about an appropriate advisor may take place with the Director of Graduate Studies or the Departmental Chair, if the student so desires.

I. Dissertation Committee

The student and Advisor will then jointly select two other persons, possessing appropriate competence in the area of the dissertation, to serve as members of the dissertation committee. The character of the dissertation may be such that it will be necessary to go outside the department, or in exceptional cases even outside the university, for an appropriately competent third member of the committee.

In general the student will work most closely with the Advisor. The Advisor will decide when written material is ready to be circulated among the other members of the Committee. Since this is a time consuming process, the Advisor may decide not to have the student circulate written material until a satisfactory first draft is complete. The other members of the Committee must be given the opportunity to read and evaluate the dissertation, suggesting changes or raising objections, before the final version is completed. A student should feel free to consult the advisor and the members of the Committee, whether singly or as a group, whenever needed, and should report progress to the advisor periodically. Until the first draft is completed, the student will probably work primarily with the advisor. Thereafter the student will work more with all three members of the Committee.

I. The Prospectus

The Prospectus for the Ph.D. dissertation will be defended at the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination, as specified in section 2.7 above.

Any candidate who enrolls in PHIL 999 Dissertation will have selected a member of the department as advisor, and should submit a prospectus to the department. With the help of the committee the candidate must prepare and submit a prospectus for approval by the Department. In the prospectus the candidate should state the topic of his thesis, introducing what problems that will be investigated, and suggesting, if possible, the anticipated conclusion. The candidate should outline the methods, and should submit a preliminary list of works to be consulted. The candidate should also provide a brief account of previous experience in the field of the subject matter. The Department realizes that

research undertaken after the prospectus has been approved may lead to a modification of the candidate's original proposals. Any such modification must be reported to the committee; and if, in the judgment of the dissertation committee, these modifications sufficiently change the nature of the dissertation, a new prospectus must be drawn up and submitted to the Department for approval.

A. Having prepared a prospectus in consultation with the advisor, the student will solicit comments on the prospectus from the other two members of the committee. When the committee unanimously agrees that the prospectus is ready to be sent to the Department, the advisor will circulate the prospectus to all members of the Department. Each member of the Department will read the prospectus and return any comments to the advisor. Taking account of the comments made by other members of the Department, the committee will then decide whether to approve the prospectus or call for revision. A unanimous vote of the committee is necessary for approval. Committee approval constitutes Departmental approval. Once the prospectus has been approved by the committee acting on behalf of the Department, the student will be formally notified by the advisor. Notification will also be given to the Director of Graduate Studies, and all materials relevant to approval of the prospectus will be placed in the student's file. Whether or not the prospectus is approved, the student is encouraged to discuss the prospectus with any members of the Department who have indicated objections to it.

I. Length of Thesis and Dissertation

A. The length of doctoral dissertations can and will vary widely, but a dissertation of 35,000 words should be thought of as reasonable. Dissertations longer than 65,000 words are very strongly discouraged. In addition, dissertations can be composed of three high-quality papers that do not constitute an extended argument, so long as those papers are thematically related.

I. The Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation

The Dissertation Defense Committee configuration must comply with University requirements. It should contain three readers (the advisor and the other two members of the Dissertation Committee). The dissertation advisor serves as chair. The two additional members must be given adequate opportunity to read the final version of the dissertation.

They will not be expected to read or comment on any earlier versions. These two members should be chosen by the student in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.

Preliminary scheduling of the examination will take place in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Program coordinator within the first two weeks of the semester in which the student plans to defend; however, the dissertation candidate will not be approved for the defense until the final version of the dissertation has been approved by all committee members.

A. The grade on the examination (the defense) is determined by the Examining Committee.

I. Completion and Deposit of the Dissertation

The draft submitted to the Department graduate faculty for examination must be in final form and it must include all footnotes and bibliographical material. Upon reading the draft, members of the Department may make suggestions for revision. If the candidate does not accept these suggestions, the refusal should be prepared and defended at the oral examination.

A. The student must format and submit the dissertation in accordance with Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations and deadlines. After successful completion of the oral defense, the student must provide the department with an electronic copy of the final version of the dissertation prior receiving the terminal degree.

I. Credit and Grading

A student must be continuously enrolled in PHIL 999 in accordance with the University policy on Post-Comprehensive Enrollment. A student may not enroll for more than 12 hours of credit in PHIL 999 in any one semester. There is no limit on the number of credits a student accumulates in PHIL 999, except those imposed by time limitations.

The grading scale SP / LP / NP will be used to indicate research and writing progress in PHIL 999. Students enrolled in PHIL 999 must maintain regular contact with the dissertation advisor throughout

the research and writing process. Failure to maintain regular contact can result in a grade of LP (Limited Progress) or NP (No Progress). For more details, see section 3 below.

2.9 Reduction of Required PhD Hours Based on Previous Coursework

Strictly speaking, there is no university transfer of credits for students seeking the Ph.D. degree, since Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs does not require any specified number of hours of course work. The requirement of 39 hours of graduate level course work is a departmental requirement. In cases where the student has done graduate work at another institution, it is possible to have this requirement reduced by an internal departmental petition. The requirement may be reduced depending on the amount and quality of course work done elsewhere. A petition may be submitted (after consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies) during the first year in the graduate program. The student must speak to the quality of achievement in the courses mentioned in the petition.

2.10 Transfer of Credit for previous M.A. Degree Received

Credit hour and distribution hour reductions for previous graduate work in Philosophy will be considered by petition on a case-by-case basis, typically no earlier than the beginning of the student's second semester in residence. Please consult the Director of Graduate Studies for more information.

2.11 Prior Publication of Doctoral Dissertation

Portions of the material written by the doctoral candidate may appear in article form before completion of the dissertation. Prior publication does not ensure the acceptance of the dissertation by the dissertation committee. Final acceptance of the dissertation is subject to the approval of the dissertation committee. Previously published material by other authors included in the dissertation must be properly documented.

3. DEPARTMENTAL GRADING PROCEDURES AND ACADEMIC FILES

3.1 General

For the University grading scale, see the appropriate section of the Graduate Catalog. Only grades A or B are normally taken as indications that a graduate student has completed courses satisfactorily. Under current Graduate Division regulations, "A" designates above average graduate work; "B", average work; "C", passing but below average graduate work; "D" and "F", failing graduate work.

The College has adopted the use of plus/minus grading to describe intermediate levels of performance between a maximum of A and a minimum of F. Intermediate grades represented by plus or minus shall be calculated as .3 units above or below the corresponding letter grade. The maximum grade is A; a grade of A+ will not be recognized. Instructors of record have the option of using pluses or minuses; they are not required to do so. The instructor's policy should be noted on the syllabus. The grade of B- does not represent satisfactory work in graduate studies.

The grade "I" is used to indicate work of passing quality in a course some part of which is, for good reason, unfinished. According to present Graduate Division policy, the grade of I for graduate courses shall remain unchanged on the student's record except that should the student subsequently complete the course work the instructor would then change the I to a letter grade as described above.

The grading of thesis / dissertation credit hours uses the SP / LP / NP scale established in USRR 2.2.5.

Satisfactory Progress (SP): The student has met the goals of the semester as agreed upon with the faculty advisor. The progress made in the semester supports timely completion of the thesis or dissertation.

Consequences: No action is needed.

Limited Progress (LP): The student completed less than what was agreed upon with the faculty advisor. The semester's progress may cause delays in the timely completion of the thesis or dissertation.

Consequences: If two grades of LP are reported for a student, the department will review the grade and student's record and may recommend (i) academic probation, (ii) a mentoring agreement, formulated in consultation with the thesis advisor, that sets out specific requirements the student must meet in order to return to good standing. If additional LPs are reported after the mentoring agreement and/or probation, the student is no longer making satisfactory progress toward their degree and is out of good academic standing. As a result, the graduate studies committee may recommend dismissal of the student from the program.

No Progress (NP): The student has shown no evidence of completed work, or did not make progress toward the thesis or dissertation.

Consequences: If a student receives a NP, the student is not making satisfactory progress toward their degree and is considered out of good academic standing. As a result, the department will review the grade and student record and may place the student on academic probation, complete a mentoring agreement with the student, or recommend dismissal of the student from the program.

3.2 Reports on Graduate Students

At the end of each semester faculty members write comments on a student to supplement the rather minimal information conveyed by a course grade. These comments are kept in the student's file and are open to inspection.

3.3 Good Standing in the Graduate Program

To be considered in "good standing" in the graduate program, students must be making timely progress toward meeting their degree requirements. More than one grade of W for each year completed in the program may jeopardize a student's good standing, and thereby jeopardize future GTA appointments.

3.4 Annual Graduate Student Progress Review

At the end of the Spring Semester the Faculty of the Philosophy Department will conduct a general review of the students in our Graduate Program and of the progress they have made. The review will be routine; however, an attempt will be made to identify problems a student may have (e.g., a student who appears to be making inadequate progress in the program; or a student who seems unlikely to make it through to the Ph.D. based on performance and who should be advised to seek a terminal M.A.). As a result of the review an attempt will be made to advise students appropriately. Students who are judged not to be in good standing will be informed in writing of this and of the steps they need to take to return to good standing.

The Annual Graduate Student Progress Review is an ideal time to present written petitions to the Department regarding program requirements. The petition is given to the Director of Graduate Studies who then presents it to the Graduate Faculty of the Department. The petition and faculty decision will be retained in the Graduate Student's confidential academic electronic file.

A brief review may be held at the end of the Fall Semester to attempt to identify students who may have academic problems and who should receive special guidance or advice during the Spring Semester. Not all students will be reviewed at this time.

Prior to any review, a student who wishes to inform the faculty of anything that will help the faculty in advising future work, or a student who has some worry about fairness, should follow the informal resolution of complaints or formal grievance procedures.

3.5 Student Academic Files

A confidential academic file is kept in the Philosophy Department for each graduate student in Philosophy. The file is started upon receipt of a request for information about the program, and is kept current thereafter. It may contain the student's application, letters of recommendation, copies of letters sent to the student as well as those received from the student, memos of discussion with the student, transcripts, the prospectus for thesis or dissertation, material concerning approval of the prospectus, results of examinations and Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship courses, memoranda by faculty on the student, and so on. The file is available to any faculty member in the Philosophy Department. It is not generally available for anyone else or any other office, although some of its contents may sometimes be sent in support of fellowship applications and the like. The confidential contents are not available for external use.

A student has the right to review the contents of the file. The only items the student will not be shown are letters of reference which were written in confidence, except as required by law.

A student has the right to add anything believed to be pertinent to the file. If the student feels the file contains misleading information, a corrective statement may be submitted to rebut comments.

3.6 Regular & Timely Feedback from Thesis/Dissertation Advisors and Department

All graduate students will receive regular and timely feedback on their research and coursework. Within the first 12 months in the graduate program, students must establish an individualized plan of study with the Director of Graduate Studies. Progress is monitored at the annual graduate student progress review. Doctoral candidates are further encouraged to meet with their dissertation committee every 12 months. To further support these positive mentoring relationships and the objective evaluation of progress, the student, research advisor, or Director of Graduate Studies may request the completion of a formal mentoring agreement at any stage of the degree. During the final thesis or dissertation phase, advisors and committee members should provide timely feedback so that students can complete their documents and schedule their oral defense with the university.

4. ASSISTANTSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS

4.1 Philosophy Endowment Awards and Fellowships

The Olin Templin Fellowship in Philosophy

The Olin Templin Fellowship in Philosophy is awarded on the basis of both academic excellence and financial need. In the past, the Department has used the fellowship to support graduate research travel and summer research support.

The Genova Scholarship

The Department typically selects an outstanding graduate student who is making excellent progress toward degree or a new graduate student who shows potential to make contributions to the field with the Genova Scholarship at the conclusion of each academic year. A scholarship of \$1,000 is applied to the subsequent semester of the student's study.

The Robinson Essay Contest

The Department has adopted a proposal to offer an annual essay contest, to be called the Edward S. Robinson Memorial Essay Contest.

- A. Prize or prizes are offered (up to \$500) depending on the quality of the essays.
- B. The essays will be judged by a committee of members of the KU Philosophy Department and a representative of the Graduate Association of Students of Philosophy.
- C. The contest is open to KU undergraduates and graduates.
- D. The essays may be on any topic of philosophic interest.
- E. Each contestant is limited to one entry.
- F. The winner of the contest may present the essay to a GASP meeting open to anyone interested.
- G. The contest is limited to unpublished essays.

Graduate Student Travel Awards

Graduate Students are eligible for travel support to professional conferences at which they have had a paper accepted for presentation. There are currently two sources of support:

- A. Graduate Studies Office (Contact Graduate Studies)
- B. Edward S. Robinson philosophy travel awards. The Department occasionally has limited funds for transportation costs for students who are presenting papers at significant philosophical meetings. Eligible students should apply to the Chair of the Admissions and Awards Committee.

4.2 Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Graduate Teaching Assistantships in Philosophy

The Department employs qualified graduate students to teach discussion sections for large classes. Half-time Teaching Assistants receive a nine-month student salary based on the current rate as determined by the University, in addition to a 100% remission of tuition.

Recommendations concerning Assistantships in Philosophy are made to the Chair of the Department by the Committee on Recruitment, Admissions and Awards. In making its recommendations, the Committee is especially concerned to maintain or enhance the quality of undergraduate instruction and to provide funding for, as well as recognition of, qualified graduate students. The Committee's deliberations and decisions must be kept strictly confidential by the faculty and student members of the Committee.

Normally, in appointments for Assistantships in Philosophy, preference will be given to Ph.D. over M.A. students. In making appointments, special attention will be paid to evidence of teaching ability, philosophical ability, and, as appropriate, the quality of the student's progress in the graduate program. Criteria for assessment of progress will include such things as performance with respect to coursework and examinations, and the satisfaction of other degree requirements.

Each GTA appointment is made for a specified period of time, up to one academic year (not including the summer session), as determined by the Department and as stated in the written appointment form. Such appointments are renewable, but in no event shall a GTA have an expectation of or right to continued employment beyond the time in that GTA's current appointment form. Re-appointments are conditional

upon (1) good standing in the graduate program, and (2) at least adequate performance of duties as a GTA. Assuming the availability of funds, the Department's goal is to provide four years of funding for suitably qualified Ph.D. students (three for students who enter the program with an M.A. from another institution); and two years support for M.A. students.

Any re-appointments in excess of the targeted numbers are made in light of Departmental needs and on evidence of the candidate's exceptional performance both in the classroom and in the graduate degree program. GTAs are not, save in emergency situations assigned to teach 300-level or higher courses. GTA positions are designed to provide employment in teaching for individuals seeking advanced degrees at the University. These positions are not intended to be career employment and are therefore subject to limitations on their number of years' duration.

Occasionally the Department employs a few qualified graduate students to teach logic, introduction to philosophy or introduction to ethics during the summer term. Such opportunities will be few in number, however, and prospective applicants should plan accordingly. Such summer teaching will not count towards the normal teaching limits (two or three years) mentioned above. Criteria for appointment as a GTA during the summer term are those described in the paragraphs above.

Additional guidelines and criteria will be issued, where appropriate, by the Committee on Recruitment, Admission, and Awards. All GTA appointments are subject to Memorandum of Agreement in place at the time of the appointment.

4.3 Departmental GTA Awards and Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs GTA Award Nominations

Department of Philosophy Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards

Annual awards for excellence in teaching are given by the Department of Philosophy. The Committee awards (up to) three Outstanding Graduate Teacher Awards. Nominations are solicited from Supervising Faculty members. Awards shall be made solely on the basis of teaching in philosophy, and shall be made on the basis of the nominating materials, and the Committee's consideration of a nominee's files, including teaching evaluations. Prior receipt of an Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award shall not reduce a nominee's eligibility for a subsequent award.

Typically, Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award winners are rewarded by GTA merit salary funds — the number and amount of such awards dependent upon the amount of the GTA merit raise allocation provided by the University in a given year.

Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards

Nominations for Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs GTA Awards are submitted by the Committee on Admissions and Awards.

The procedures of the Committee are as follows:

1. The Committee on Admissions and Awards is responsible, annually, for soliciting and evaluating nominations for departmental nominations for Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs GTA awards, and for making, on the Department's behalf, not more than two departmental nominations for such awards.
2. Nominations for departmental nominations are invited from members of the faculty and from graduate students, and are strongly encouraged from current faculty supervisors of GTAs.
3. No more than two nominations will be accepted from a given nominator, and nominators must rank their nominees.
4. Faculty supervisors are encouraged, but not required, to consult teaching evaluation materials for their nominees.
5. Nominations must be based on the nominee's work as a GTA in philosophy, not in some other subject.
6. The Committee shall be concerned to make credible, well-informed nominations, and shall select (not more than) two nominees on the basis of nomination materials provided and its own consideration of a nominee's files, including the nominee's written teaching evaluations.

7. A GTA shall be eligible for departmental nomination on more than one occasion (whatever the success of prior departmental nominations).
8. The Chair of the Committee has the responsibility to write the departmental letters of nomination and to forward all nomination materials, in timely fashion, to Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs.
9. The Committee will issue a departmental announcement, appropriate for being read to an undergraduate class by either faculty or GTA instructors, that informs undergraduate students of the opportunity of making direct nominations (i.e. directly to Graduate Studies) for GTA teaching awards—but that is not to be used by GTAs to solicit nominations.

4.4 Graders and Research Assistants

Faculty members do their own grading in all upper-level, honors, and small-enrollment courses. There is some money for graders for large sections of courses (more than 50 students). Graders are chosen by the faculty member, usually from among the graduate students who are not teaching or on a fellowship (other than Templin). Application for a position as a grader should be made directly to the course instructor, and should be made at the start of the semester in which the course is offered. The appointment of the student is made by the Chair only after enrollment.

Occasionally, the Department has funds for the appointment of a few Research Assistants who assist certain faculty members with a research project. Faculty members who have been approved for a Research Assistant typically choose their own Research Assistant.

4.5 Other Teaching Opportunities

Lectureships

The Department, depending upon needs and circumstances, sometimes appoints a Philosophy Lecturer to cover a specific course. Typically, a Lecturer had already completed the Ph.D, but advanced, experienced graduate students may also be eligible.

The Department may be asked to staff positions off-campus or at times other than the regular semester (in Leavenworth, at the Edwards Campus, Intersession courses, summer courses, etc.). In some cases these courses are normally staffed by regular faculty members (e.g., at the Regents' Center). In others the positions are staffed by persons who are not regular faculty members (typically, by graduate student instructors). In cases of this sort, and indeed in the case of any course taught by a person who is not a regular faculty member, appointments are made only upon recommendation of the Admissions and Awards Committee, after thorough review of the person's qualifications to teach the course in question.

In most cases, courses taught by persons who are not regular faculty members will be standard introductory courses (Phil. 140, Phil. 148, Phil. 160 and Phil. 180). Occasionally, however, an advanced graduate student, or a person of similar status, may teach other courses, including courses at a more advanced level (300 or above). Such appointments will be made only after exceptionally close review of the applicant's credentials by the Admissions and Awards Committee, review designed to determine that the person has demonstrated competence in the area covered in the course in question. The Admissions and Awards Committee will seek departmental approval of such appointments.

For advanced graduate students whose qualifications to teach specific courses have been previously established and approved, when one of these specific courses is requested and funded by one of the locations of the University's Outreach program (e.g., Edwards Campus) and the request is generated on the basis of student interest or demand for the qualified graduate student, the Chair of the Department (in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies) is free to approve the externally funded course assignment.

Off-Campus Teaching Opportunities

Occasionally the Department is asked to recommend candidates for part-time teaching positions at other institutions in the area (e.g., community colleges). When possible and appropriate, the Department will make such positions known to all students. Students interested in such positions should so inform the Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. Any student who accepts such a position should also inform the Chair and the Director.

5. INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

5.1 Application and Appointment

Application for GTA appointment should be made on the appropriate form, which may be secured from the Departmental Secretary, and returned by the appropriate date.

Teaching positions are budgeted by the University on an annual basis, i.e., all appointments are formally made on a one-year basis and are not automatically renewed. Hence, a new application (but not new letters, etc.) is required each year for the Department's usual GTA appointments. However, the Department normally attempts to provide qualified graduate students with sufficient continuing support to complete the Ph.D. program, i.e., approximately four years of support for a student entering the program with a B.A. in philosophy and who makes normal academic progress.

A student may present anything pertinent, in addition to what is required, e.g., when applying for admission, or for aid or awards. The student is welcome to provide a written statement if there is something in their past history which needs clarification.

After the deadline for application for Teaching Assistantships, the list of internal applicants for awards may be circulated among members of the Department. Comments concerning each faculty member's comparative judgment of those students who most merit awards and those who merit them less may be solicited. Comments will be kept confidential and will be destroyed after awards are made. Letters of appointment are issued by the Chair of the Department.

Please note that the University of Kansas is a signatory to the following resolution of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States:

"Acceptance of an offer of financial aid (such as a graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by an actual or prospective graduate student completes an agreement which both student and graduate school expect to honor. In those instances in which the student accepts the offer before April 15 and subsequently desires to withdraw, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer."

5.2 Performance of GTA Duties

As required by the Memorandum of Agreement between the University and Board of Regents, and the Kansas Association of Public Employees (representing GTAs at KU), Article 5, Section 6, all GTAs must receive a statement of general instructions regarding their academic duties and responsibilities, at least five days prior to teaching their first class. The statement for philosophy GTAs follows below:

STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES

All philosophy GTAs must be enrolled in the Philosophy Graduate Program and enjoy good academic standing in the program. During the term of appointment, the GTA must be enrolled in no less than six (6) credit hours per semester. GTAs are required to attend all orientation and training sessions designated as mandatory by the University, the College, or the Department in which the GTA is appointed. When required, GTAs shall adhere to departmentally approved course outlines or syllabi, shall use the approved texts, and other instructional materials, and shall administer tests or other graded activities in accordance with instructions of the GTAs' supervisor, Department or School. GTAs shall hold their classes and final exams at the assigned times and places. GTAs shall submit grades in accordance with Department and University policies and instructions. All absences from assigned classes must be submitted in advance for approval by the Department (other than for illness or emergency situations, in which case the GTA must provide a written explanation to the supervisor) and arrangements must be made for the class to be covered in accordance with the departmental policies. GTAs shall set and keep 2-4 scheduled office hours per week. GTAs shall obtain course evaluations from students enrolled in their courses using the student evaluation form provided by the Supervising Faculty Member. The Supervising Faculty Member should keep the course description in mind

for the courses (140, 148, 160, etc.) which the GTAs are teaching and take responsibility for reviewing the syllabi to ensure that they fit the course description.

5.3 GTA Salaries and Merit Increases

For any fiscal year, if the Legislature approves the University's legislative budget request for authorization and funds sufficient to provide merit salary increases to GTAs, and does not specifically impose restrictions or limitations on expenditures for GTA salaries or GTA salary increases, in that fiscal year the University shall provide the same average percentage merit salary increases to GTAs that it provides to tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Any salary increases provided to GTAs will be provided on a merit basis rather than an across-the-board basis. For example, if the Legislature authorizes an average merit salary increase of three percent without any restrictions as to salary increases for GTAs, the University will provide merit salary increase for GTAs in an amount averaging three percent, although individual GTAs may receive higher or lower percentage increases.

A GTA whose appointment is renewed within the same department in which the GTA taught the previous semester (excluding summer sessions), will be deemed to have performed at a meritorious level sufficient to entitle the GTA to two-thirds of the authorized average merit salary increase (in the example described above, a GTA who is reappointed within the same department would have earned an average merit salary increase of 2% by virtue of being reappointed within the same department). Any additional merit salary increase will be left to the discretion of the Department, acting within the budget parameters provided to the Department by the University, based upon its evaluation of the GTA's performance; provided, however, that the average percentage merit salary increase for all GTAs shall not exceed the legislatively authorized average percentage merit salary increase.

Typically, in the Department of Philosophy, the additional merit salary increases (i.e. beyond the two-thirds component as indicated above for all reappointed GTAs) will be awarded by way of Department Outstanding GTA Awards for excellence in teaching. Annual GTA evaluations will be conducted by the Philosophy Admissions and Awards Committee, and the primary input for such evaluations will be the evaluative reports from the relevant Faculty Supervisors of the GTAs and the record of student teaching evaluations of GTA courses.

5.4 Memorandum of Agreement

The Department of Philosophy and all GTAs in the Department are governed by the [Memorandum of Agreement](#) between The University of Kansas and The Board of Regents and The Kansas Association of Public Employees, which specifies how such matters as grievance procedures and other personnel matters will be conducted.

5.5 Positions

Positions are contingent upon making satisfactory progress towards one's degree and teaching in accordance with the policies of the Department. Experiments in teaching, grading, etc., are to be made only with the explicit consent of the Chair or the Director of Graduate Studies.

5.6 Office Items

Offices

Offices are provided by the Department for shared use by Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). Keys are to be returned and offices vacated upon termination of an appointment. A continuing GTA may retain their office during the summer. The occupant of an office is responsible for the furniture therein. Furniture is not to be moved or removed without the permission of the Departmental Chair. A new Teaching Assistant has a right to office space as of August 15 in the year they are scheduled to teach and is not eligible for office space in the summer unless they are teaching summer courses.

Office Hours

GTAs should be available to students at times other than class times. They should designate regular times during each semester when they will be available to see students (between 2 and 4 hours a week) and post these on their office door.

Supplies

Paper necessary for classroom instruction is made available by the Department. Copying may not be charged to the Department without the explicit approval of the Departmental Chair.

5.7 Texts and Desk Copies

Each course taught by a graduate student shall have a full-time faculty member designated to act in a consultative, supervisory capacity. The faculty member shall have the responsibility for ordering the texts for the course. For graduate students teaching a course for the first year, the faculty member shall choose the texts. The faculty member shall consult with the student, if feasible. Students who have taught a course for one year may propose their own texts. They must obtain the supervising faculty member's concurrence on the texts. If a graduate student and faculty member are unable to agree on a text (or texts), they shall consult with the Departmental Chair for a means of resolving their differences.

Desk copies of textbooks for the course a GTA is teaching should be obtained directly from the publisher.

5.8 Course Requirements

Early in the semester, preferably during the first class meeting, an instructor should set expectations in the way of tests, exams, or papers (i.e., how many, what kind, and approximately when assignments will be due).

5.9 Grading Protocols

There should be some spread in the final grades given to students. A bell curve (some A's, some F's, mostly B's and C's) is the usual pattern; but GTAs are not required to grade on a curve.

All GTAs are responsible for submitting final grades online.

5.10 Student Curriculum and Instruction Survey

All student instructors should administer the Department's Student Evaluation Form to their classes once the materials become available. The results will be put in the GTA's department file. These results may also be used by the Committee on Admissions and Awards.

5.11 Supervising Faculty Member

The faculty member teaching the large lecture section of a course is responsible for supervising the GTA discussion leaders for that course.

On-line GTA courses, as well as courses at the 300-level taught by independent GTAs will be supervised by faculty members appointed to the Independent GTA Supervision Committee. Prior to the start of each year, the members of this committee will determine which courses each faculty member will supervise, and the independent GTAs will be given the name of their faculty supervisor.

Faculty supervisors have the following responsibilities:

A. Providing orientation and training for GTAs under their supervision.

Supervisors may employ a variety of methods, but these must include an initial orientation session early in the year, and at least one class visitation during each semester with a follow-up discussion and/or letter to the GTA with feedback and suggestions for improvement. The Department recommends that each Faculty Supervisor prepare and distribute a packet of appropriate materials at the initial orientation session for the course, and that additional materials, as appropriate, be distributed during the semester.

B. Evaluating the teaching performance of their GTAs.

1. At the end of the fall semester, the supervisor should provide the DGS with an indication as to whether the performance of each GTA supervised was acceptable, or whether the GTA should be sent an official letter warning that re-appointment for the following year is in jeopardy if performance in the spring semester is not improved. If GTA performance is acceptable a brief note to that effect to the DGS will suffice.

GTAs in danger of non-reappointment because of poor teaching performance in the Fall Semester will be warned of this in writing by the Chair of the Admissions and Awards Committee early in the Spring Semester.

2. At the end of the spring semester, the supervisor should provide the DGS with an overall evaluation of the performance of the GTAs under supervision. The evaluation should be based on the performance of the duties included on the statement of duties earlier provided the GTA in the Graduate Guidelines. The letter of evaluation should include a recommendation as to whether the GTA should be reappointed for the following year. This information can also be used by the Philosophy Admissions and Awards Committee in awarding merit salary increases.

NB: Criteria under which GTAs are evaluated, and the method of evaluation, are not subject to grievance or appeal procedures available in the university - unless the GTA claims that evaluation was based on factors other than performance of duties.

5.12 Student Grade Appeal Policy

The following was adopted as departmental policy (November 14, 1990) dependent upon further clarification of the policy adopted by the University Council.

- A. Students can only appeal a course grade, not a grade for a particular exam, paper, etc.
- B. Grounds for appeal is limited to the charge that an instructor has not consistently followed the announced or declared grading procedures for the course. The grade cannot be appealed on the ground that the student simply disagrees with the grade. (If a student appeals any grade on the grounds of illegitimate discrimination, sexual harassment, etc., that is a different matter—a matter of possible academic misconduct by a faculty member—and is dealt with via other established grievance procedures.)
- C. Prior to any departmental action, a student who is interested in filing an appeal must (a) provide a written statement which clearly states the reasons for the appeal, (b) provide evidence (all class exams, assignments, etc.) in support of the appeal; and (c) meet with the charged faculty member with a view to resolving the issue at that level.
- D. If the student and the charged faculty member cannot resolve the issue, the student is free to meet with the chair of the department who will attempt to resolve the matter informally to the satisfaction of both parties.
- E. If this fails, the chair may either make a decision at that point or appoint a three-member, ad hoc committee to review the case and forward its decision to the student, the charged faculty member, and the chair.
- F. If this does not resolve the matter, then the student or the faculty member, as the case may be, is free to appeal to the appropriate university body.

5.13 Policy on GTA Absence from Classes

The Handbook for Faculty and Other Unclassified Staff states the following: "If prevented from meeting classes or carrying out other academic responsibilities, a faculty member must, if physically able to do so, make satisfactory advance arrangements and communicate, preferably in writing, the nature of these arrangements to the chairperson ..." The Dean of the College has asked each Department to develop a policy stating what arrangements are satisfactory to cover missed classes. The policy for the Department of Philosophy is stated below.

- A. The policy governing GTA cancellation of classes must be compatible with the GTA Union contract and the University Policy on class cancellation.
- B. GTAs are not free to cancel a class they are scheduled to teach based on their own unilateral decision (see exception in F below).
- C. GTAs are under the immediate supervision of their designated Faculty Supervisors.
- D. GTAs should always make good faith efforts to find a qualified replacement for any class they cannot meet. It is advisable to have pre-established arrangements with other GTAs for this purpose. GTAs should inform their Faculty Supervisor as to who is the replacement teacher.

- E. If a GTA cannot identify a qualified replacement, the GTA should contact the relevant supervisor to discuss the problem of replacement, and if no replacement is available, to request authorization to cancel the class for a justifiable reason. If authorized, then (1) the GTA should notify the class in advance of the cancellation when this is possible, or (2) when the class is the very next class (no advance notice possible), the GTA should find someone to go to the class and notify the students of the cancellation. All canceled classes should be made up at a time that the students can agree upon.
- F. An exception to the above procedures would be a genuine emergency (serious illness, auto accident, family crisis, etc.) Where due to the time constraints or circumstances, the GTA is unable to arrange for a replacement or contact the supervisor for authorization to cancel the class. In that case, the front office should be contacted as soon as possible, and the front office staff will do their best to notify the students in time, and will also notify the relevant Faculty Supervisor.
- G. Faculty supervisors have been delegated the responsibility and authority to make the relevant decisions regarding cancellation of GTA classes, etc. In the event of a serious conflict between a GTA and a Supervisor, the matter should be brought to the attention of the Chair who will advise the GTA of the availability of the appropriate grievance procedures specified in the Graduate Student Guidelines- assuming that no informal resolution of the problem occurs.

6. GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 General

There is a Graduate Association of Students in Philosophy, (GASP), run by the graduate students. The organization, though not an official part of the Department, has close liaison, through its officers, with the Department. It supplies representatives to Departmental meetings and serves as an intermediary between the Department and the graduate student body. It also carries on a variety of activities of its own independently of the Department, such as sponsoring colloquia, gripe sessions, lectures, information sessions, etc.

6.2 Graduate Student Representatives in the Department

No graduate student or undergraduate student shall serve as a representative in department meetings in more than one academic year. (May 11, 2011)

One of these students shall serve on the Admission and Awards Committee. The student shall have a vote on the admission of new students and on awards to new students, but shall have no vote on awards to students already enrolled in the Department. Note: all Committee decisions and all information with respect to student records, etc. are strictly confidential.

Students may not sit in on those meetings or portions of meetings at which preliminary or other examination preparation or results are discussed.

The students will not have a vote or be members of the promotions and tenure committee, and they will not have a vote in the hiring of new staff. However in cases of tenure, promotion, and the hiring of new staff, the Department will request that the student representatives, by the appropriate means, query those students who have had appropriate contact with the faculty member or prospective faculty member, and prepare an appropriate evaluation which summarizes the general student appraisal of the individual in question. Such appraisals will be taken into serious account by the members of the Department charged with weighing all appropriate information and arriving at a decision.

During discussions of job candidates or of current faculty members being considered for retention, the student representatives will be invited to present statements summarizing their views but otherwise will not be present. (May 11, 2011)

6.3 Guidelines for GASP

Article I. The Official name of our organization will be "Graduate Association of Students in Philosophy" or GASP.

Article II. The membership of GASP will consist of all graduate students usually enrolled in philosophy courses.

Article III. (Officers)

1. The officers of GASP will consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and any officer deemed necessary.
2. At the last regular meeting of GASP during the Fall term, officers for the following year will be elected by a simple majority of members present and voting.
3. A new officer, to replace one that has resigned or has been removed, may be elected by a simple majority of members present and voting at a regular meeting.
4. Any officer may be removed from office for serious failure to carry out the duties upon an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present and voting at a regular meeting.
5. Duties of the Officers

- a. The President, with the assistance and cooperation of the other officers, will be responsible for planning the meetings of GASP, securing speakers and setting the agenda.

The President will have a choice in which department committee s/he will serve as representative, the Academic Planning Committee, the Admissions and Awards Committee, or the Visiting Lecture Series Committee. The President will report back to GASP all and only relevant information from the departmental meetings as well as information from the committee s/he serves on. The President will also be the one to call/run GASP meetings.

- b. The Vice President can serve as representative on one of the remaining committees. The Vice President will report back to GASP all and only relevant information from the committee s/he serves on. The Vice President will also be responsible for taking minutes at the GASP meetings.
- c. The treasurer can serve as representative on the remaining committee. The treasurer will also serve as Director of the GASP Colloquia and so will be responsible for planning the colloquia (e.g. securing speakers, setting dates, etc.). Further, the Treasurer will be the GASP representative to the Graduate Affairs Director and so will be responsible for attending these meetings and will bring relevant information to GASP and relate/represent to the Graduate Affairs Director the interests of GASP.

Article IV. The members of all committees, temporary and permanent, will be selected by the President of GASP with the cooperation of the other officers.

Article V. Regular meetings of GASP will be held at least once each month school is in session except the summer months, and will be announced well in advance.

Article VI. All substantive questions, except those involving amendments to these Guidelines, will be decided by a simple majority of those members present and voting at regular meetings, or by a simple majority of those voting when the vote is conducted by mail. But amendments to these Guidelines shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in a regular meeting, or two-thirds majority of members voting by mail ballot. Which procedure will be used shall be determined by a simple majority of those present and voting in a regular meeting. Six shall constitute a voting quorum provided there are at least nine graduate students in the department. A previously decided question may be reopened only by a motion carried by simple majority or after the end of the current semester.

Article VII. Any document that will be presented on behalf of GASP requires a vote of approval at a regular GASP meeting.

Article VIII. These Guidelines will go into effect upon their approval by two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting.

6.4 Auslegung

Auslegung: A Journal of Philosophy shall be administered by the editorial staff at the University of Kansas. The editor of the journal shall be nominated by the editorial staff; the nomination shall be subject to approval by a simple majority vote of GASP. Normally a person must have at least six months experience working on *Auslegung* to be nominated for editor. Responsibility for securing such funding as is needed shall lie with the GASP officers and the editorial staff. The editorial policy for *Auslegung* shall be that, at the discretion of the editors, essays shall be selected for publication solely on the basis of philosophical merit and not on the basis of any philosophical (or other) interest or bias. The essay(s) chosen as Robinson Essay Contest winner(s) will be considered for publication in *Auslegung*. The titles, contents, and authors of essays submitted but not selected for publication in the journal shall be kept confidential by the editors. At least two issues of the journal shall be published each academic year, depending on available funds.

7. JOB OPENINGS IN PHILOSOPHY

Students interested in obtaining a full-time teaching position should notify the Department Placement Director at the beginning of the academic year in which they expect to complete their dissertations. Students should feel free to discuss offers and application procedures with any other member of the Department as well and should notify the Department once they have accepted a position.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 Department Mail Boxes

All graduate students have mail boxes in the Departmental Office. They should check these frequently for notices and other information from the Department.

Graduate students should keep the office staff informed of any changes in name, address, phone number, or email address.

8.2 Informal Resolution of Complaints

- A. If a student feels they have been treated unfairly in any matter, they should notify the Chair or the Director of Graduate Studies and may petition the Department as a whole.
- B. If a student has any worry that they will be treated unfairly by any committee, they may submit written statements as appropriate or the student may speak to the Chair, the Director of Graduate Studies, or other appropriate persons prior to that committee's deliberations. If the student wishes, they may petition through the Chair or the Director of Graduate Studies to appear before the committee prior to its deliberations.
- C. Any student who feels any decision, grade, rule, etc. unfair in general or in a particular application may petition for review of the decision, grade, rule, etc., by the Chair or by the Department as a whole. If a student fails to receive satisfaction, they are free to seek a formal grievance hearing at the level of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in accordance with the provisions of the University Senate Code.

8.3 Policy on Switching Advisors

An advisor is a member of the graduate faculty who oversees a student's general progress in the program and is a mentor to the student while they are in the program. The DGS serves as advisor for all graduate students while they are completing coursework. After coursework is completed, a student identifies a member of the graduate faculty willing to serve as an advisor for the prospectus and dissertation. This faculty member will serve as the student's advisor for the remainder of the student's time in the program, unless a formal advisor switch is made. *Note:* Since all students are advised initially by the DGS, this policy concerns a switch from one *dissertation* advisor to another, not the initial switch from DGS advising to a dissertation advisor.

Reasons for Switching Advisors

There are many reasons why to consider switching advisors—for example, a shift in research interests, a change in an advisor's status at KU, or an unproductive working relationship. Students are encouraged to consider an advisor change when doing so feels critical for progress toward their degree, but are also cautioned to proceed professionally during this process and, specifically, to maintain open communication whenever possible.

Procedure

A student who is considering an advisor switch should do the following:

- A. Meet with the DGS to discuss this issue.

In cases where the DGS is the dissertation advisor, or where there is a conflict of interest that complicates the student's ability to bring this issue to the DGS, the student should identify another faculty member who can play this role - and the student is encouraged to work with the department's Graduate Academic Advisor to identify a suitable person, if help is needed.

- B. Notify the current advisor.
- C. Identify a future advisor.

Note: the order of these steps will likely vary situationally. When necessary, the student can ask the DGS or GAA appointed faculty member to communicate with the current or future advisor on their behalf.

Once a student has decided to go ahead with the advisor switch, they will need to fill out the **Switching Advisor Form**, obtaining the signature of both the new advisor and the DGS (or Faculty Rep). In cases where a student opts to discontinue with their current advisor before being able to find a new advisor, the DGS (or Faculty Rep) will serve as the student's advisor in the interim.

During the semester in which the switching of advisors takes place, the DGS (or Faculty Rep) will oversee the grade assignment for the student's PHIL 999 hours, in consultation with the current and future advisor as relevant.

If, within one semester of submitting the Switching Advisor Form, a student cannot identify a new advisor willing to work with them, the student will be dismissed from the program.

9. UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

This section contains information on requirements and policies of the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, hereafter referred to as “the University”. It is not a complete list of all policies pertaining to graduate students. Only those policies that *most commonly* affect graduate students are included.

Policies are described in general terms and are intended to help students understand what is expected. They do not reflect the exact language of the official policy and should not be confused with official policy. Specific information and restrictions as well as links to relevant forms may be accessed by clicking on the policy headings. Links to the official policies in the KU policy library are found at the bottom of each policy description. Students are accountable to and should familiarize themselves with the University's official policies.

GENERAL POLICIES

The following University policies apply to ALL graduate students regardless of degree, program, or department. These are minimum general requirements. Your department or program may have more restrictive policies in any of these areas.

Admission

Degree or non-degree seeking applicants must have a bachelor's degree (as evidenced by an official transcript from the institution the degree was obtained).

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Admission to Graduate Study](#)

English Proficiency Requirements

The University requires all applicants, international or domestic, to demonstrate English proficiency for admission to any graduate program at KU. There are multiple ways to prove English proficiency:

- Declaration of native or native-like speaker status on the online application for graduate study.
- Official scores from an English proficiency standardized test (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS-Academic, or PTE), sent by the testing agency to the University of Kansas. Official scores must be less than two years old. Scores must be reported to KU directly by the testing service. Self-reported scores or unofficial scores are not accepted. TOEFL scores should be sent by ETS to KU institution code 6871. IELTS should be sent to KU Graduate Admissions via the e-delivery service. PTE score sheets containing the Score Report Code and Registration ID should be emailed to graduateadm@ku.edu for verification.
- Graduation with a baccalaureate degree (or higher) earned in residence from an accredited English-medium college or university or an accredited college or university in the United States. Degrees earned online may not be used to verify English proficiency. Note: this option is not sufficient for employment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.
- AEC Curriculum: Students who haven't taken one of the listed tests may complete coursework through the KU [Applied English Center](#) (AEC) to demonstrate English proficiency.

- US Military Employment: If you are employed as an officer in the U.S. military with documentation of selection or promotion to the rank of Major or higher (or the equivalent U.S. Navy or Coast Guard rank), then you will be considered fully proficient and will not be required to complete AEC testing.

Additional English Competency Requirements for GTAs:

English proficiency requirements for GTAs are governed by the Kansas Board of Regents and must be met separately from the English proficiency requirement for admission to a KU graduate program. Detailed information on English proficiency requirements for GTAs may be found on Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs' [Spoken English Competency page](#).

Related Policies and Forms:

- [English Proficiency Requirements for Admission to Graduate Study](#)
- [Spoken English Language Competency of Faculty and Graduate Teaching Assistants, Kansas Board of Regents Policy](#)

Enrollment

For graduate students, advising on enrollment and course selection take place at the department level. While individual units may have additional enrollment requirements, for students who are required to enroll full-time (e.g. students holding a GTA/GRA/GA appointment, international students on an F-1 or J-1 visa, students receiving federal financial aid, etc.) the University defines full-time enrollment it as follows:

Fall and Spring semesters:

- Enrollment in 9 credit hours;
- Enrollment in 6 credit hours plus a GTA, GRA, or GA appointment, regardless of percentage of appointment;
- Enrollment in 6 credit hours for graduate students using the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill – Active Duty;
- Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation hour(s). *See Doctoral post-comprehensive enrollment.
- Enrollment in 6 competencies for students in a Competency-Based Education (CBE) program

Summer sessions:

- Enrollment in 6 credit hours;
- Enrollment in 3 credit hours plus a GTA, GRA, or GA appointment, regardless of percentage of appointment;
- Enrollment in 3 credit hours for graduate students using the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill – Active Duty;
- Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation hour(s).
- Enrollment in 6 competencies for students in a CBE program

Graduate students are not normally permitted to enroll for more than 16 hours a semester or more than 8 hours in summer session.

While these are KU's definitions of full-time enrollment, other institutions may have different definitions. Be sure to consult with your financial aid and/or health insurance providers before making enrollment decisions.

Students not enrolled by 11:59pm the day before the first day of classes will be assessed a late enrollment fee. The University Registrar then deactivates the KU ID of any not enrolled by the last Friday in October (for Fall) or last Friday in March (for Spring). Students who wish to enroll after that must submit a [Permit to Re-Enroll](#) to be reactivated.

Students who wish to leave their graduate program should inform the department of such plans in writing so that a Voluntary Withdrawal form may be submitted on their behalf. Please note that voluntarily withdrawing from your program does **not** automatically withdraw you from coursework. You must also withdraw from all classes in Enroll & Pay via the "Withdraw from the University" option.

Deadlines for adding, changing, dropping, or withdrawing from all courses, as well any fines associated with the change, are set by the University. **Deadlines vary from year to year. Students should carefully review the current [Academic Calendar](#).**

You may also wish to consult the Registrar's page on [Effects of Dropping or Withdrawing on your Transcript](#).

Your graduate program coordinator (or similar title) is available to guide you through any enrollment scenarios or questions that come up. In order to avoid problems on your record, please consult with them prior to dropping or changing enrollment.

Related Policies:

- [Discontinued Enrollment](#)
- [Enrollment](#)
- [Full-time Enrollment for Graduate Students](#)
- [Graduate Coursework Expiration Dates](#)
- [Master's Degree Requirements](#)

Graduate Credit (Including Transfer Credit)

The University's Graduate Credit [policy](#) defines KU's conditions for the following:

- Definition of graduate credit for the purposes of a course "counting" towards a graduate degree or graduate certificate at KU;
- Transfer of graduate credit to KU from an outside institution;
- Reduction in the required number of graduate hours for Master's students;
- Counting credit hours taken as non-degree seeking student towards a later graduate degree at KU;
- Counting credit hours taken as a certificate seeking student toward another graduate degree.

Transfer Credit

The transfer credit option allows master's students to add graduate-level coursework completed at another institution to their KU transcript to count toward their KU degree. Upper-level coursework taken as an undergraduate, even courses numbered at the graduate level, is not eligible for transfer in any case.

Additional restrictions apply to what non-KU graduate courses and the number of credit hours that can be counted toward a KU master's degree, so students should carefully review the information provided in the link above and the related policies below, as well as consulting with their DGS. In all cases, transfer credit must first be approved at the department or program level. To begin the transfer process, students should consult with their DGS to submit the required transfer materials. These include a transcript reflecting the courses to be transferred and descriptions and/or syllabi for the courses in question.

No transfer of credits is allowed for the Ph.D. In circumstances where students enter the Ph.D. program with an M.A. from another institution or other relevant graduate coursework, it may be possible for students to request a reduction in the number of hours required for the Ph.D. Students should consult with their DGS about their enrollment plan.

Reduced Credit Hour Degree

KU policy defines 30 hours as the minimum for master's degrees. Departments may petition for a reduced hour degree master's degree for individual students in cases where they may provide evidence that the student entered the program especially well-prepared to complete a graduate-level degree and the student is able to maintain a superior grade point average. Reduced credit hour degrees must be based on coursework or experiences that can be objectively measured, such as coursework or qualifying internship or study abroad programs. Professional or life experience does not qualify. A reduction in hours is distinct from a transfer of credit and is reserved for students whose prior coursework doesn't qualify for transfer credit (e.g. was already used to fulfill requirements towards a completed degree) and there are no modifications on the transcript.

Restrictions apply to the number of credit hours that can be reduced for a master's degree, so students should carefully review the information provided in the link above and the related policies below.

In all cases, a reduction in hours must first be approved at the department or program level, so to begin the process for approval, students should consult with their DGS. Students must also provide documentation of the coursework or experience being used to justify the reduced hours (e.g. transcripts, program descriptions).

Because there is no minimum number of required hours for the Ph.D., reduction of required hours based on prior degrees or experience is determined solely at the program level. Doctoral students should consult with their DGS about their enrollment plan.

Related Policies:

- [Graduate Credit](#)
- [Co-enrollment](#)
- [Master's Degree Requirements \(on Reduced Hour Master's Degree\)](#)

Credit/No Credit

The University supports and encourages interdisciplinary study, which may include graduate students enrolling in coursework at the graduate level that is outside of their primary discipline. The Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) is an option for graduate students who are taking a course that is not required for their degree or certificate and who do not wish to have the course grade reflected in their cumulative graduate GPA. Rather than a grade appearing on the transcript, the student receives a designation of CR or NC, which does not factor in the GPA.

No course graded CR/NC will count toward the satisfaction of any graduate degree or certificate requirement. This includes, but is not limited to, courses taken to fulfill the Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship requirement for doctoral students.

Students make the CR/NC election via the Registrar's CR/NC [online request](#) form. Elections and changes to elections can only be made during the specific CR/NC period. For regular semester courses, this period begins after the last day to add a class and extends for approximately two weeks. Exact dates may be found on the current KU [Academic Calendar](#). Please keep in mind, short courses may have [alternate dates](#).

The student should consult with their own program advisor about the appropriateness of the course prior to enrolling; however, in cases where CR/NC is elected, the course instructor is not informed of the election unless the student chooses to share this information.

Additional restrictions apply. Students should carefully review the information in the link above.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [University Senate Rules and Regulations \(USRR\), Section 2.3.8](#)

Probation & Dismissal

Probation is an academic status that can be assigned to a graduate student that is not making [satisfactory progress](#) toward completing their degree. The department initiates the probation process and will inform the student of why they are not making satisfactory progress, what they must do to return to good standing, and the deadline for doing so.

Students are most commonly placed on probation due to their graduate cumulative [GPA](#) dropping below a B average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale). In these cases, probation occurs automatically and is reflected on the student's record for the semester following the semester in which the student's GPA drops below 3.0. If the student's cumulative GPA is raised to 3.0 by the end of the probationary semester, the student will be automatically returned to good academic standing.

Individual Schools/the College may set more stringent GPA requirements.

Students may also be placed on probation by their departments for other reasons that constituting a failure to make satisfactory progress towards degree. These may include, but are not limited to;

- Lack of progress on the thesis, dissertation, or capstone project
- Unacceptable academic performance on program milestones outside of coursework (e.g. exams)
- Unsatisfactory grades or GPA within foundational required courses (despite the overall cumulative GPA)
- An unsatisfactory result in their department's annual progress evaluation

Nearing or going beyond their maximum time to degree. See the Time Limits section below for more information.

Students should carefully review the [Good Academic Standing policy](#) for graduate students at KU for more information on what constitutes making satisfactory academic progress.

Individual programs may also have additional measures of progress. Students should also consult the Annual Review section of their department graduate handbook or the degree requirements section and with their program advisor for more information.

If a student is unable to raise their cumulative GPA or otherwise meet the communicated terms of the academic probation, the department will reconsider their continuation in the program, and in most cases will recommend the student for dismissal. Once dismissed, a student is no longer able to be enrolled in coursework and cannot complete their degree. Students dismissed from any graduate program may not be admitted to any other graduate program at the University of Kansas.

A student on probation or facing dismissal should discuss their status with their advisor.

Related Policies:

- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Dismissed Enrollment](#)
- [Good Academic Standing policy](#)

Grading

The Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs' (GPA) [Grading policy](#) governs requirements for the grading of graduate students above those described in [Article II](#) of the University Senate Rules and Regulations. Additionally, individual schools, departments, or programs may have grading policies that are more stringent than those of GPA.

Students should also consult their advisor and the departmental grading section of this handbook for additional information that may affect them.

At minimum, for all graduate students at KU, at least a B average is required on course work counted toward any of the master's degrees at KU, and only courses graded A, B, or C (excluding C-) may be counted. Course work counted toward a doctorate, including that for a master's degree if obtained at KU, should average better than a B.

Related Policies:

- [University Senate Rules & Regulations](#)
- [Grading](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Dismissed Enrollment](#)

Time Limits

The University expects that master's degree should typically be completed in two (2) years of full-time study, the doctorate degree in five (5) years of study, and both the master's and doctorate together in six-seven (6-7) years of study.

Students who anticipate exceeding these targets should review the information in the policies below, as well as consult with their program advisor to create a timeline for degree completion. In order to support this process, students are encouraged to use a Mentoring Agreement Template and/or adapt to their own needs to support effective mentoring and a positive mentoring relationship.

Note that individual schools/the College/degree programs may require Mentoring Agreements for students who are nearing their maximum time to degree.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Master's Degree Program Time Constraints](#)
- [Engagement and Enrollment in Doctoral Programs](https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/graduate-studies/doctoral-program-time-constraints)<https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/graduate-studies/doctoral-program-time-constraints>
- [Doctoral Degree Comprehensive Oral Exams \(on exam expiration and recertification\)](#)
- [Doctoral Program Profiles with Time to Degree Information](#)
- [KU CLAS Mentorship Agreement Template](#)
- [Univ. Michigan Rackham Graduate School Mentoring Plan Templates](#)
- [KU Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs IDP template](#)

Leave of Absence

In exceptional circumstances (e.g. cases of illness, emergency, financial hardship, military leave, to pursue family responsibilities, or to pursue full-time activities related to long-range professional goals) it may be necessary for graduate students to take a break from their program temporarily, without having to withdraw entirely from the program. An approved leave of absence allows a student to take a temporary break from enrolling in graduate coursework while remaining in good standing with the University and the department and while “stopping the clock” on their time to degree. When a student is on Leave of Absence status it is understood that they have temporarily suspended their graduate work and therefore will not make use of University resources, including faculty time.

Requesting a Leave of Absence is done through a University petition. University petitions must first be approved and supported at the program level, so students wishing to initiate the petition process should first consult with their Director of Graduate Studies and review their department’s internal petition procedures. Units or the Director of Graduate Study may request documentation to support the student’s need for a leave of absence.

In order for a Leave of Absence to be approved, the student must be withdrawn from all active and/or future enrollment. Withdrawal for the purposes of Leave of Absence is still subject to all Registrar deadlines, required forms, and applicable tuition and fees.

Students on Leave of Absence are automatically reactivated after their leave is over and are eligible to enroll for their intended semester back during the normal enrollment periods. See the KU [Academic Calendar](#) for exact dates that enrollment begins.

If at any time plans change and a student wishes to return and enroll before leave was supposed to end, they may contact their department to be reactivated early.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Leaves of Absence \(policy\)](#)
- [Leave of Absence \(GPA website, form linked at bottom of page\)](#)

Required University Milestones

All graduate students must complete one or more exams as part of their degree requirements. In addition

to department or program guidelines, the following milestones are required for all students and specific regulations apply:

- Master's Final Culminating Exam (written or oral)/Thesis Defense for Master's degree
- Doctoral Comprehensive Oral Exam
- Doctoral Final Exam/Dissertation Defense

*A final culminating effort is not required for departments with an approved coursework-only master's degree option in the Academic Catalog (note that programs with a capstone are considered coursework only).

Before a student is allowed to complete any of these three exams, pre-approval from the school/College is required in advance of the exam date. This pre-approval request will be submitted on the student's behalf by their department after the exam date has been scheduled. The school/College reviews the student record and verifies all University requirements have been fulfilled. The full list of these requirements may be found via the link in the heading above. Students should work with their departments well in advance of their planned exam date, to schedule their exams in a timely fashion and to ensure that all University policies relating to oral exams are being followed.

There are additional policies requirements for oral exams. The following are University policies pertaining to oral exams:

Oral Exam Committee Composition

All voting committee members must be appointed members of the Graduate Faculty of KU. Additionally, a majority of committee members serving on a graduate student oral examination committee must be tenured/tenure-track faculty in the candidate's department or program of study.

Many additional restrictions apply, especially for doctoral exam committees. Master's and doctoral students should carefully review the University policies pertaining to exams, as well as consult with their Director of Graduate Studies when forming an exam committee. Your graduate program coordinator can assist with confirming the qualifying status of any faculty member at KU, or outside of KU.

Oral Exam Attendance

Oral Exams may be conducted in-person, remotely, or a hybrid of both. There are no University level requirements for physical presence; however, there are strict regulations on participation.

In all cases, all committee members must be present, either physically or via phone/video conference, for an exam to commence. **If a committee member does not arrive or appear, the exam may not begin and if a committee member leaves or loses connection such that they cannot fully participate, the exam may not proceed. Oral examinations that do not meet these attendance requirements are not valid.**

Master's and doctoral students should carefully review the policies below, as well as consult with their Director of Graduate Studies in the formation of an oral exam committee.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition](#)
- [Doctoral Student Oral Exam Committee Composition](#)
- [Oral Exam Attendance](#)
- [Graduate Faculty Appointments](#)

DOCTORAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the student's individual Ph.D. program's degree requirements, the following are University requirements for graduation with a Ph.D. at KU.

Enrollment Requirement

Prior to the semester in which the comprehensive exam is held, all doctoral students must complete a minimum program engagement equivalent to two full-time semesters. This may be accomplished through either of the following:

- Two semesters (fall and/or spring) of full-time enrollment in KU coursework, as defined by University policy
- At least 18 hours of enrollment in KU coursework spread out over several part-time semesters

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Engagement and Enrollment in Doctoral Programs](#)

Continuous Enrollment for Post-Comprehensive Students

During the semester in which the doctoral oral comprehensive exam is completed and each fall and spring semester follows, doctoral students must adhere to very specific enrollment requirements. These requirements may be different than enrollment requirements prior to the oral comp exam.

Failure to properly comply with the enrollment requirements may cause delays to graduation or additional enrollment requirements to make up what was missed, increasing tuition expenses near the end of your degree program.

To avoid delays or additional costs, you are also strongly advised to meet with your graduate program coordinator the semester before your oral comprehensive exam. Your graduate coordinator will work with you to develop an enrollment plan that meets all policy requirements, while also preventing unnecessary or avoidable fees.

Post-comprehensive enrollment requirements also apply to students with GTA/GRA/GA appointments, but these students must be certified to drop their enrollment levels. Departments are responsible for tracking student enrollment and will submit the certification form on the student's behalf **at least two weeks prior** to the beginning of the semester in which the enrollment will drop below 6 hours. Students who are certified to reduce hours continue to meet the University's definition of full-time enrollment, as well as the enrollment requirements of their employment contract.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Full-time Enrollment for Graduate Students](#)
- [Doctoral Candidacy](#)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The University offers a variety of [Approved Graduate Certificate Programs](#) to encourage current graduate students to pursue interdisciplinary study, gain a credential for expertise in an outside area of study, or provide an option for a coherent course of advanced study for those not ready to commit to a full

degree program. Note that students must be fully admitted to a graduate certificate by the end of the last course that will count to fulfill the certificate. Students wishing to complete the certificate should apply as early as possible. Students whose interests or career goals may be served by a Graduate Certificate should familiarize themselves with the University's policies relating to Certificate programs (found below) early in their graduate career, in addition to individual certificate program requirements.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Graduate Certificate Programs: Eligibility and Admission Criteria](#)
- [Policies & Procedures for Graduate Certificate Programs](#)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Master's & Ph.D.)

In addition to all program requirements, students [planning to graduate](#) must complete all University graduation requirements **prior to the published Graduation Deadline** in a given semester. Students should consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for the published Graduation Deadline, which varies by semester.

Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs Graduation Checklists ([Master's](#) | [Doctoral](#))

These graduation checklists provide a comprehensive list of all University requirements for graduation and should be consulted by every graduating master's or doctoral student as soon as graduation is expected. Submission of the final draft of the thesis or dissertation is done electronically. Students must comply with all University requirements for [formatting](#) and [electronic submission](#) of the thesis or dissertation. There is no University requirement that students provide a bound or printed copy of the draft.

We strongly encourage students to submit an Application for Graduation as early as possible; ideally prior to the 20th day of classes of the semester they intend to graduate.

GRADUATE & POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs (GPA) offers funding opportunities in several different categories. Students interested in applying should direct inquiries to the department's Director of Graduate Studies or to GPA. Some of the available funding includes:

[Summer Research Scholarships](#): intended primarily for post-comp doctoral students.

[Graduate Student Travel Fund](#): intended for graduate students presenting a paper at a national or regional meeting of a learned or professional society. A student may receive an award (max \$750) only once per academic year, with priority given to students who have not received the fund previously. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Doctoral Student Research Fund](#): Designed to support KU doctoral students who need assistance to carry out research that advances progress toward the degree. Applications for this fund are accepted only for a limited time as funding is available. Students are eligible to receive one award from this fund during their doctoral career. Students should check the link above for additional information and restrictions.

Policies Regarding Freedom of Expression on Campus

Kansas State Law (HB2333) requires postsecondary educational institutions in Kansas to publish in their handbooks and orientation programs the institution's policies, regulations, or expectations of students regarding free expression on campus.

Per KU General Counsel, this includes the following two policies:

- [KU Public Assembly Policy](#)
- [Kansas Board of Regents Statement on Free Expression](#)

Note that the two policies listed above apply to ALL members of the campus community; they are not specific to graduate students.