

Basic 6-Year Timeline

FIRST YEAR

FALL (1)

Take at least 3 Philosophy graduate seminars and ProSeminar (+11 credits)
Pass Formal Logic PHIL 3003 with B or better
Responsible Conduct of Research Requirement
Service: Help with department colloquium

SPRING (2)

Take at least 3 Philosophy graduate seminars. (+9 = 20 credits)
Attend and complete any mandatory Graduate School workshops
Service: department colloquium help, TA for 1000-level course (usually ethics)

SUMMER

Prepare to satisfy the Language Requirement.

SECOND YEAR

FALL (3)

Take at least 3 Philosophy graduate seminars. (+9 = 29 credits)
Take Foreign Language Exam by **September 1** (Arrange w/ DGS by AUG 1)
Service: TA for 1000-level course (usually INTRO)

SPRING (4)

Take at least 3 Philosophy graduate seminars. (+9 = 38 credits)
DGS Consultation to declare a field for the Field Exam (FE).
Service: TA for 1000-level course (usually Gen Logic) OR Instructor of Record (IOR) for 1000-level course

SUMMER

Begin reading the departmental reading list for one's FE

THIRD YEAR

FALL (5)

Take at least 3 Philosophy graduate seminars. (+9 = 47 credits)
Complete reading for the FE, begin formulating a Focus Statement
Fifth Semester DGS Consultation, appoint an FE Committee
All course requirements *must* be satisfied by end of semester
Service: IOR for 1000-level course

SPRING (6)

Register full-time for non-candidate research; 9 credits. (+9 = 56 credits)
Focus Statement, to the FE Committee and DGS by **February 15th**
FE Oral Examination **before Spring Break**.
Service: Relieved of teaching duties

SUMMER

Conduct research necessary for designing and drafting a Dissertation Prospectus and form Dissertation Committee
Work on Dissertation Prospectus

FOURTH YEAR

FALL (7)

Register for 9 credits of non-candidate research. (+9 = 65 credits)
Must appoint a full Dissertation Committee (with appropriate paperwork) in the first week of the semester at the latest.
Defend Dissertation Prospectus no later than **September 30th**.
Service: IOR for 1000-level course

SPRING (8)

Register for 7 hours of dissertation research (+7 = 72) – This is the complicated registration time.
Attend Job Placement Meeting (w/DGS)
Begin preparing job dossier.
Service: IOR for 1000-level course

SUMMER

Dissertation writing. Prepare job dossier.

FIFTH YEAR & SIXTH YEAR

FALL (9 & 11)

Register full time for dissertation research (0 hours)
Job dossiers out (October-November)
Service: IOR for 1000-level course
Decide if Spring or Summer defense & graduation

SPRING (10 & 12)

Register full time for dissertation research (0 hours)
If Spring graduation: Complete and defend the Dissertation, meet deadlines for dissertation final versions, intent to graduate forms (usually early March)
Graduation is in early May
Service: IOR for 1000-level course

SUMMER

If summer graduation: Last day to submit intent to graduate for summer is mid-June. Deadline to submit final versions of dissertation is mid-July.
Dissertations should be defended by late June or early July at the latest.
Summer graduation takes place in mid-August.

PHIL graduate program requirements

| Requirement | Date satisfied by | Notes |
|---|--|--|
| Colloquium & Programing Attendance | All semesters | Attend all official PHIL department events (colloquia, programs) |
| Language | Beginning of third semester (September 1) | Two translations: one by author of choice, other by evaluator's choice. Decide on language & author by Aug 1 |
| Logic | End of third semester | Pass PHIL 3003 with B or better |
| 4s Consultation | End of fourth semester | Make arrangements for Field Exams – determine field to prepare |
| History and Theory Distribution | End of fifth semester | 5x History, 5x Theory courses (and 3x of sub-categories each) |
| Course Requirements Completed | End of fifth semester | 47 Hours of credit in PHIL program |
| 5s Consultation | End of fifth semester | Confirm preparation for Field Exam, set exam committee |
| Focus Statement | Sixth semester, Feb 15 | Complete Focus Statement for field exam |
| Field Exam | Sixth semester, week after Spring Break | Complete Field Exam |
| Dissertation Prospectus | Seventh semester, September 30 | |
| Responsible Conduct in Research Requirement | End of 8 th semester | CITI Program & Seminar (usually beginning & end of school year) |
| 72 Credit hours | End of 8 th semester | |
| Dissertation defense | By end of 12 th semester or 6y summer | |

History and Theory Distribution: Students will take at least 5 seminars in the History of Philosophy and at least 5 seminars in Topical Areas of Philosophy, with the additional stipulation that students must take seminars from at least 3 different categories in each.

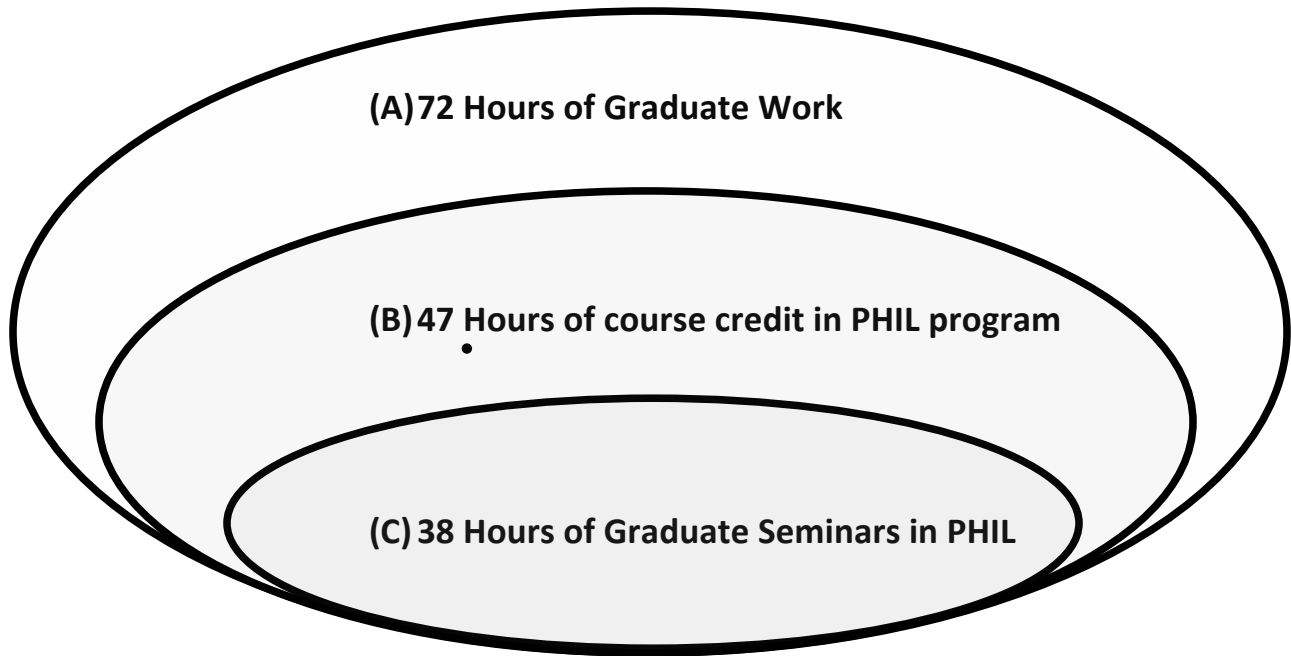
Topical Area Categories

- T1. Mind and Language
- T2. Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics
- T3. Metaphysics and Epistemology
- T4. Race, Gender, Identity
- T5. Contemporary Philosophical Movements

Historical Categories

- H1. Ancient Philosophy
- H2. Medieval Philosophy
- H3. Modern Philosophy
- H4. 19th Century Philosophy
- H5. 20th Century Philosophy
- H6. Trans-era History of Philosophy

Distribution of Credit Hours to 72/47/38:



Examples of category (A):

Non-candidate research hours (collected in semester 6) – PHIL 8999
Dissertation research hours (collected after semester 6 or 7) – PHIL 9999
Courses at VU taken outside PHIL (even if graduate level coursework)

Examples of category (B):

Transfer credit (maximum of 6 credits)
Undergraduate courses taken for graduate credit (enhanced UG credit)
PHIL Independent Study work – PHIL 8050
Regularly-offered PHIL seminars (from C)

Examples of Category (C):

Regularly-offered PHIL seminars

Constraints on graduate coursework:

1. Maximum of two (2) grades at the B level or below
2. Must meet the H-T Distribution requirement
3. 9 credits per semester
(**the exceptions are 11 hours in semester 1 and 7 hours in semester 8**)
4. Incompletes have a *12-week window* before becoming Fs