Philosophy, MA

Between the traditional education of philosophy and the teachings of current philosophical topics, students in the MA program are prepared for a future in education or the workforce with foundational skills that support philosophical thinking.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Philosophy

The School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies offers an MA degree program in traditional and contemporary philosophy. General areas of research include ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of law, philosophy of science, feminist philosophy, philosophy of language, experimental philosophy and the history of philosophy. Members of the faculty are involved in interdisciplinary work in a variety of fields and enjoy close ties with the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics, the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, and a number of other graduate programs at ASU. The philosophy program sponsors an active colloquium series and regular philosophical conferences on diverse topics. The Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics also sponsors a wide range of activities, including large-scale conferences, distinguished visitors and support for graduate study.

The master's degree program in philosophy is designed to prepare students to:

- enter doctoral programs
- teach philosophy at the community college level
- work in any area that requires critical, analytical thinking, such as medicine, law, government, or publishing

The program seeks to maintain a balance between course offerings in the traditional areas of philosophy and opportunities for study of current philosophical developments.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
**Location:** Tempe campus

### Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a portfolio, or
30 credit hours and a thesis

There are two options for the master's degree program in philosophy: the thesis option and the nonthesis portfolio option.

The thesis option requires 30 credit hours of coursework, including six credit hours of PHI 599 Thesis.

The nonthesis portfolio option requires 30 credit hours of coursework, including three credit hours of PHI 592 Research.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. official GRE scores
4. statement of purpose
5. curriculum vitae
6. writing sample
7. three letters of recommendation
8. proof of English proficiency

### Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of
English proficiency as well as a copy of an article or research paper in their native or principal research language in addition to the English writing sample required of all students. The philosophy program requires a TOEFL score of at least 600 (PBT) or 90 (iBT).

GRE Scores should be no more than five years old. Official scores should be sent by the ETS to ASU using the university code 4007. The department code may be left blank or entered as 0000.

The statement of purpose should explain the applicant’s specific intent and be no more than 600 words in length.

The writing sample must be a piece of philosophical writing, preferably a seminar paper or published article (no more than 20 pages) and not a thesis or dissertation.

**Application Deadlines**

Fall  
expand

**Contact Information**

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