1 Program Requirements and Policies

1.1 Coursework

In normal circumstances, students are expected to complete all degree requirements within three or four semesters.

1.2 M.A. Thesis

The degree requirements also include a substantial research paper of appropriate quality, which may be written either in connection with a seminar or under the supervision of a departmental adviser and which must receive a grade of B+ or better.
1.3 Good Standing Requirements and Academic Probation

1.3.1 University Requirements for Good Standing

- To be in good standing, the Graduate School requires that students maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must have successfully completed 66 percent of credits attempted while at NYU, not including the current semester. Courses with grades of “I”, “NR”, “W”, and “F” are not considered successfully completed.

- The degree must be completed within 5 calendar years after the date of first enrollment in that master’s program.

1.3.2 Academic Probation

- GSAS requires that students who fail the criteria for good standing be placed on academic probation.

1.4 Additional Program Policies

1.4.1 Incompletes

- There are strict departmental and university requirements governing incompletes.

- GSAS policy on incompletes: An unresolved grade, “I”, reverts to F one year after the beginning of the semester in which the course was taken unless an extension of the incomplete grade has been approved by the Vice Dean. At the request of the departmental DGS and with the approval of the course instructor, the Vice Dean will review requests for an extension of an incomplete grade. A request for an extension of incomplete must be submitted before the end of one year from the beginning of the semester in which the course was taken. An extension of an incomplete grade may be requested for a period of up to, but not exceeding, one year. Only one one-year extension of an incomplete may be granted.

- Philosophy Department policy on incompletes, for all graduate courses: The course instructor sets all course deadlines and determines the course policy on incompletes. In many cases, that policy may be to permit no incompletes whatsoever, so it is imperative that you consult your instructor for specific guidelines. However, in all Philosophy Department graduate courses, the following limiting condition on incompletes applies. Subject to the exception described below, all coursework must be completed and submitted by the first day of class of the semester immediately following the semester in which the course was taken, on penalty of receiving an F in the course. This means that all work for fall courses must be submitted by the first day of spring classes, and all work for spring courses must be submitted by the first day of fall classes.
Absolutely no incompletes beyond this are permitted except by filing, in advance, a formal written request with both the Director of Graduate Studies and the course instructor. The request should be filed by e-mail, and must (1) explain the reason for seeking the extension; (2) detail a specific plan for completion, describing the work that has been completed to date and the work that remains to be done; and (3) propose a new deadline. Requests will not be granted automatically. Moreover, except under extraordinary circumstances, the written request must be filed with both the DGS and the course instructor at least one week in advance of the relevant deadline (the first day of class of the semester immediately following the semester in which the course was taken).

1.4.2 Advising

- Each student is assigned an advisor upon entering the M.A. program.
- Ordinarily, all advisors will meet with their advisees at least twice per semester (for example, once toward the beginning of the semester, and once toward the end before the graduate student review). Practice may vary among individual cases and it will sometimes be appropriate to meet more or less often. Nevertheless, except in very unusual circumstances, advisors and advisees should meet at least once per semester. Students and their advisors are encouraged to set aside some meeting time for unstructured discussion, conducted without a fixed agenda.
- Shortly before the end of classes of each semester, students are asked to complete a brief self report form where they summarize their activities during the semester, and comment on their progress. The completed form is sent to both the Director of Graduate Studies and the student’s advisor.

1.4.3 Policy on Small Discussion Seminars and Small Discussion Groups

- The department aspires to offer three graduate seminars per term that are designated as “small discussion seminars,” which means that attendance is limited to NYU Philosophy Ph.D. and M.A. students only, except by permission of the instructor.
- If a graduate seminar is routinely attended by more than fifteen people, there will be a regular small discussion group meeting. These meetings may take place weekly, or every two to three weeks, depending on need. Attendance at these small discussion group meetings is limited to NYU Philosophy Ph.D. and M.A. students only, except by permission of the instructor.

1.4.4 GSAS Policies and Procedures

- Philosophy M.A. students are subject to all general policies and procedures governing M.A. programs that are issued by the Graduate School of Arts and
Science (GSAS). These policies and procedures are summarized in the GSAS Policies and Procedures Manual.

1.5 Dual Philosophy M.A. and Law J.D. Degree Program

- Students at the New York University School of Law may pursue an M.A.-J.D. dual degree program in philosophy and law.
- The School of Law requires 83 credits of study for the J.D. However, in the dual degree program, up to 12 law school credits for courses in the GSAS may be applied in satisfaction of this requirement. The M.A. requires 32 points of course work, but 8 points taken in the School of Law may be applied to the M.A. Thus a student need only earn a total of 95 points for the dual degree rather than the 115 needed if the degrees were completed separately.
- All other requirements for the M.A. as listed above must also be met.
- Requirements for the J.D. degree
- It should be possible to complete the J.D./M.A. in three or three and a half years.

2 Fellowships and Financial Support

2.1 Tuition and Fellowship Support

- M.A. students normally receive a partial tuition scholarship towards the 32 units required for the M.A. The terms of each scholarship are specified in the student’s admission letter from GSAS. The precise amount of the scholarship depends on the number of incoming MA students, as the department has access to a fixed number of tuition credits per incoming class.
- M.A. students are encouraged to apply for outside fellowships, to help with tuition, fees, and living expenses. Those receiving outside fellowships are eligible to participate in the GSAS Tuition Incentives Program (TIP), which provides tuition credits in proportion to the award received. For more information, see here.

2.2 Conference Funding

- M.A. students whose work is accepted for conference presentation may receive grants to support conference travel and/or accommodation from the conferences themselves. Students are encouraged to inquire about such support, and applying for any such support is a condition for receiving NYIP grants (see below).
- The Dean’s Student Travel Grant Program, a resource of GSAS, provides funds to graduate students in the humanities, social sciences and sciences for travel to
professional meetings and conferences to present invited papers or posters. Information on this program can be found here.

- It is important to note that there are three application periods for Dean’s Student Travel Grants, in October, February, and June. Students are encouraged to plan ahead, and to meet these deadlines even if they are not yet sure whether their conference presentations will be accepted. Application to this travel grant program is a condition for eligibility on the NYIP travel grants (see below).

- A separate source of travel grants is the Student Senators Council (SSC) Travel Awards. Information about these awards, including deadlines and eligibility, can be found here. Applications for the following academic year are normally due the prior May.

- A final source of funding for Philosophy graduate students is the New York Institute of Philosophy (NYIP). The aim of the NYIP Travel Award is to support Ph.D. and MA students’ efforts to attend and participate in meaningful academic conferences. As there is a limited budget with which to reimburse students for travel to such conferences, decisions will be made based on the availability of funds and on a first-come basis, the importance of a given conference or program as it relates to a student’s academic and professional growth, and the role a student will play (presenter, panelist, commentator, etc.). More details on this program can be found on the Department Intranet.

3 Climate and Diversity

- The philosophy department places great emphasis on maintaining a respectful, safe, and supportive environment for all who work within it— including faculty, students, staff, and visitors—regardless of disability, gender identity, nationality, race, religion, socioeconomic background, or sexual orientation.

- NYU philosophers do not tolerate harassment or discrimination, and strongly support efforts to remove barriers to inclusiveness in philosophy as a discipline. We are concerned to ensure that the department is a place where all of its members can thrive.

- The department has an ongoing Committee on Climate, Diversity, and Inclusiveness, aimed at sustaining these commitments, and a designated faculty member who serves as point person for interpersonal issues including harassment.

- For more information and resources about the department’s climate and diversity policies and initiatives.