# Philosophy Graduate Student Handbook

San Francisco State University

**AY 2018 - 19**

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The Department of Philosophy has two Graduate Coordinators, each of whom handles different aspects of the MA program. The department also has a Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator.

Professor Sowaal  
asowaal@sfsu.edu, Office: HUM 369  
Graduate Coordinator regarding matters of recruitment, admissions, and student status, including:

- Applications to MA program;
- Formal Logic Challenge Exam (in conjunction with Professor Peschard);
  
  See: [http://philosophy.sfsu.edu/page/formal-logic](http://philosophy.sfsu.edu/page/formal-logic)
- Information regarding student travel funds;
- Adviser for students before they have completed Phil 715;

Professor Landy  
landy@sfsu.edu, Office: HUM 327  
Graduate Coordinator regarding matters of progress to degree, including paperwork regarding:

- Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) and revisions;
- Proposal for Culminating Experience (PCE) and revisions;
- Change of Graduate Program Form (to move from Conditionally Classified to Classified Standing, usually after having fulfilled outstanding prerequisites);
- Cross Registration and Consortium Agreements (Berkeley and other CSUs);
- Work done at SFSU and in excess of Bachelor's degree;
- Graduate-level work done at other universities.
- Paperwork regarding probation, declassification, disqualification.

Linda Leonard  
grdphl@sfsu.edu, Office: HUM 388  
Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator

- Helps with all administrative aspects of the graduate program. Always feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns you have.
STUDENTS WHO ARE COMPLETING PREREQUISITES

Your main focus should be on completing your prerequisites.

Petitioning prerequisites:

When admissions actions occur, the Graduate Coordinator has only the transcript, CSU application, and prerequisites grid, so may not fully understand the applicant's preparation. In addition, sometimes students have completed courses after they have submitted their applications; such coursework has not been reviewed on admission.

This petition process offers students a chance to provide the Graduate Coordinator with more information demonstrating sufficient preparation for graduate work.

If you would like to petition that a prerequisite be waived, please submit the following information to the Graduate Coordinator during office hours:

☐ The email that was initially sent to you by the Graduate Coordinator in which your prerequisites are listed (if you do not currently have a copy, you can request one from Linda at grdphl@sfsu.edu in the Philosophy office);
☐ a letter that clearly indicates which prerequisite(s) you are petitioning;
☐ your email address and SFSU ID number;
☐ relevant information about your work regarding the prerequisite, for example:
  • for all classes except Phil 205, evidence that the class you took to satisfy the prerequisite was an upper-division class;
  • evidence that you received a B or better in the undergraduate class or analogous graduate class;
  • the syllabus for the class;
  • if the class was an independent study, a reading list and a letter from the professor verifying that you indeed read those materials and completed the writing assignments;
  • any written work you completed for the class (papers, exams, etc.).
STUDENTS WHO ARE BEGINNING COURSEWORK

Given their preparation, students enter the MA program as either “conditionally classified” (if they have not completed all prerequisites prior to applying to the program) or as “classified” (if they have completed all prerequisites prior to applying to the program).

All students are full members of the MA program.

CONDITIONALLY CLASSIFIED STUDENTS:

☐ If you have completed all of your prerequisites (with a 3.0 or better, which is equivalent to a B), you may apply for Classified Standing. (Note: being enrolled in a class is not the same as having completed the class.)

☐ You can find the “Change of Master’s Degree” form here. Only fill out the information on the very top portion of the page (your identifying information) and sign in the space for student's signature [see sample form in this packet].
  o http://grad.sfsu.edu/sites/sites7.sfsu.edu.grad/files/assets/forms/change-of-program-masters.pdf

☐ Submit to the Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator in HUM 388 (Linda):
  o the completed form;
  o the email that was initially sent to you by the Graduate Coordinator in which your prerequisites are listed (if you do not have this, you can obtain a copy from Linda);
  o one copy of your unofficial transcript.

☐ There is no deadline for the submission of this form and your standing will automatically be changed whenever your ATC form is processed, however:
  o Your standing is particularly important if you want to apply for fellowships; many SFSU fellowships require that you are a classified student.

CLASSIFIED STUDENTS:

☐ Keep in mind that you should complete the following in roughly this order:
  o Phil 715 during your first year of graduate coursework;
  o Phil 896 during your second or third semesters of graduate coursework;
  o Phil 898 during your last semester.

☐ Once you have completed 18 units toward the MA degree, it is highly advisable that you fill out an Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) form. With the exception of courses at the 600-level, prerequisite classes do not count toward the MA degree, and so are not counted among the 18 units.

☐ See “Submitting the Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) Form” in the next pages. This form is submitted early in the semester; it can be submitted in Fall or in Spring.
TAKING CLASSES AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES WHILE ENROLLED AT SFSU

☐ SFSU has several programs that allow students to pay fees at SFSU and to take classes at other universities. Please see this website for more information:
http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/resources/special-enrollment-programs/special-enrollment-programs.pdf

☐ As part of the Cross Registration Program with UC Berkeley, the Department of Philosophy allows all MA students to take undergraduate courses at Berkeley. Students who have achieved a track record of excellent Master's-level coursework at SFSU may be considered eligible to take additional courses; to take such courses, they will need: (1) an arrangement with a faculty sponsor at SFSU, (2) permission (and signature) from the Graduate Coordinator.

   o The Consortium program is only available during the regular sessions of the academic year and specifically excludes summer session, winter session, and extension.

☐ The Berkeley cross-registration form can be found here:
https://www.sfsu.edu/-admisrec/forms/regforms/ucb.pdf

PETITIONING COURSEWORK COMPLETED THROUGH OPEN UNIVERSITY OR AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

☐ Students may petition a maximum of six semester units to count toward their MA degree. This may include any combination of Open University (CEL) work, credit by examination, and/or transfer work). For more information, see: http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/graduate-education/academic-policies-procedures/

☐ Students who completed their BA degrees at SFSU and who took courses that were not counted towards their BA degrees may also petition to count such courses toward their MA degrees.

STUDENT TRAVEL FUNDING

Students may apply for funds to aid in travel to present work at conferences that will contribute to their philosophical studies and/or careers. Funds will be awarded according to the following criteria.

1. Students should be presenting original work, although students delivering comments may also apply.
2. Presentations should be beneficial to the advancement of the student's philosophical studies and/or career.
3. Students already receiving travel funding from another source (e.g., APA travel funds) are not eligible.
4. As a rule, acceptance to student conferences or student sections of conferences will not be assessed as sufficiently important to advance a career, although these are very helpful as a first step in learning how to submit and in networking. Occasionally, however, a student conference will be highly selective and will qualify.

As in previous years, the earlier the application is made, the better. To submit an application, please contact Linda Leonard at grdphil@sfsu.edu.
PHILOSOPHY 896 - COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

Contact the Graduate Coordinator if you have any questions about the guidelines below.

General Overview

1. The PHIL 896 exam is the Department's qualifying examination for Graduate students. The exam tests the student's ability to comprehend, explain, compare and explore the views of four key philosophers in the following texts: Plato's Republic, Descartes' Meditation on First Philosophy, Hume's Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, and Kant's Prolegomena. The exam also satisfies the University's Written English Proficiency Requirement for graduate students.

2. PHIL 896 is a mandatory CR/NC course. It may be repeated once if NC is earned the first time. It must be completed with a CR before the student may officially begin work on the master's thesis. Students are permitted two attempts to pass the 896 examination. Students who fail a second time will be disqualified from the program.

3. All students should confer with the Graduate Coordinator before enrolling in the course. Students who are Conditionally Classified are generally advised not to take the exam until all prerequisite work is completed. Students are strongly encouraged to have successfully completed courses in Ancient and Modern Philosophy, Epistemology and Metaphysics, and/or seminars on as many of the four philosophers as possible prior to attempting the exam.

4. Students who fail the exam for the first time will be contacted by the Graduate Coordinator for a mandatory conference. Students will not be allowed to retake the exam without having this mandatory conference.

5. The exam is a three-hour, closed-book and closed-notes exam. Students type the exam on computers in the Critical Thinking Lab.

6. The exam is entirely comparative in nature. Students are required to answer three comparative questions based on the four authors and texts, e.g., Plato and Descartes, Hume and Kant, Plato and Kant, Descartes and Hume, and so forth.

7. The passing grade for credit is a B-. The four faculty instructors grade each question on the exam and meet to assign the final grades. The results of the examination will be emailed to students within two weeks after the date of the exam.

8. It is possible to pass the exam with distinction, although this honor will not appear on your transcripts.

9. Meeting times for the class will be posted in the glass bulletin board by the Philosophy Department office (HUM 388). Submit to the instructor the written essay question one week before the group session on that specific philosopher. Essay questions are found in the 896 Packet.

10. Remember that the actual exam is closed-book and closed-notes. You will not have access to either the primary texts or secondary literature during the actual exam. These "practice" essay questions allow instructors to assess your writing ability and your comprehension of the texts. While you certainly may use secondary literature in your preparation for the exam, avoid referring to such literature in these practice essays. Likewise, avoid quoting large portions of the primary texts.
896 Exam: Helpful Hints

1. This class meets formally only four times each semester—once with the instructor for each philosopher. While each instructor is available during office hours throughout the semester, students are encouraged to meet informally among themselves in study groups/workshops in order to enhance their individual and collective understanding of the texts.

2. The exam focuses on the major metaphysical and epistemological issues that have arisen in western philosophy. To get the most out of the formal class meetings, be prepared with specific questions. Try to formulate questions that will lead you into the central metaphysical and epistemological issues within each text. This will help you to see the larger picture that emerges with each thinker.

3. Practice. Practice. Practice. Practice answering sample exam questions both verbally and in writing. Also practice writing answers to previous exam questions within the time constraints of the actual exam. Work in your study groups to develop comparative questions based on the four texts and practice answering them. Some initial study questions on each text are included in the 896 Packet. Your instructor may provide you with further questions.

4. Students are encouraged to read entries on each philosopher in standard encyclopedias of Philosophy (e.g., The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, the Rutledge and Cambridge encyclopedias). In addition, the relevant sections of Frederick Copleston's History of Philosophy series may be helpful.

5. The exam requires a working knowledge of and the ability to accurately describe the view of each philosopher and the differences between them with respect to central epistemological and metaphysical questions. In addition, you should be prepared to articulate your own views on these issues. Be sure to directly answer all parts of the question, and try to stay close to the "text." While original thought is valued, the purpose of the exam is not to assess the creativity of your philosophical thought.

6. Don't wait until the last two weeks of the semester to really start studying.

Letter to 896 Students

Dear 896 Student,

Remember that the 896 exam is a three-hour, closed-note and closed-text examination. It calls upon you to answer questions on the four assigned texts without the benefit of stopping to refer to any text or study aids. The practice essays are not term papers. They are designed to help you prepare for the experience of answering questions on the timed 896 exam. To that end, the instructors suggest that you thoroughly read the specific assigned text, complete your study (read encyclopedia entries, etc.), and answer all the study questions before you begin your written answer to the essay question. Write your answer without using books or notes; do not take more than an hour to complete your answer.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Alice Sowaal & Dr. David Landy
Graduate Coordinators
Submitting the Advancement to Candidacy form (ATC)

☐ Submit this form after the completion of 18 units and at least one semester before you intend to graduate.

☐ You can find the ATC form here: http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/atc

☐ Deadline for you to submit this form to the Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator:
  o Fall Deadline: September 14
  o Spring Deadline: February 15

Important notes:
  ☐ Be sure to type your form online.
  ☐ Submit this form and one copy of your unofficial transcript.
  ☐ Save an additional copy, as you will need it when you apply for graduation.
  ☐ You should submit for review your ATC to the Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator before it is passed along to Graduate Studies. (Note that the timelines in the SFSU Bulletin and on the Graduate Studies webpage apply to administrators, not to you.) Please see the Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator well before the deadline so that you can be sure you have correctly filled out your forms.
    • In addition to Phil 715, 896, and 898, you need to take eight classes: four of these eight must be seminars in philosophy, five of these eight must be at the graduate level (In other words, up to three classes at the undergraduate level can count toward the degree).

Note to students who are conditionally classified:
  ☐ When you submit this form, you will be automatically changed to classified standing.
  ☐ The Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator will need to assess whether you have indeed completed your prerequisites and thus whether you qualify for this standing.
  ☐ For this purpose, please also attach:
    • 1. the initial letter that was sent to you in which your prerequisites were stated (if you do not have a copy of this, you can request one from Linda Leonard in HUM 388),
    • 2. any additional relevant supporting materials (e.g., paperwork that shows a prerequisite was waived). (Note: being enrolled in a class is not the same as having completed the class.)

If you are resubmitting an ATC:
  ☐ Please follow the instructions above and attach a copy of your original ATC, noting that it is original.
  ☐ If you are not sure whether or not you need to resubmit an ATC, obtain a copy of your ATC (from your files or by requesting one from Linda Leonard) and review it. If you need to make one or two changes, simply submit an ATC substitution form. If you need to make more than two changes, fill out a new ATC form.

[see sample ATC in this packet]
Checklist to Avoid Common Errors on the ATC

Class standing
☐ If you are a conditionally classified student (this is noted on your transcript), then you will need to provide proof of the following: (1) what your prerequisites were; (2) that you completed these classes with a B or better (a B- will not count).

Note what year you started
☐ Be sure you have properly noted when you started the graduate program by selecting the correct University Bulletin year for the requirements listed below. For example, if you started in Spring ’16, you choose ‘2015-16’; if you started in Fall 16, you choose ‘2016-17’.

Correct listing of classes
☐ With the exception of courses at the 600-level, courses you took as prerequisites cannot be counted toward the degree and, thus, should not be listed on the ATC form.
☐ In the second grouping of classes, there must be at least one class that is at the graduate level; this can be a philosophy seminar, Phil 717, Phil 898, or a seminar in another graduate program (as long as it is related to your field of study and approved by the Graduate Coordinator).
☐ No class should be listed more than once anywhere on the form.
☐ If you would like to petition to have a class that is “older” than seven years count on your ATC, you also need to submit a Seven Year Limit Extension Form. Keep in mind that this petition may or may not be accepted.
☐ If you would like to petition classes that you took outside of any consortium program that SFSU has with another university, you need to submit a form called Request for Graduate Program Transfer Unit Evaluation.

Grades in classes that are numbered 300-599
☐ In these classes, you must have received an A or A- to count them on your ATC.

List the Graduate Coordinator whose duty it is to approve this form (either Professor Sowaal or Professor Landy, depending on the semester) as both the Graduate Adviser and the College Graduate Coordinator
☐ The Graduate Coordinators are the only advisers that sign the forms.

Correct number of forms submitted
☐ one original copy of the ATC
☐ one copy of your unofficial transcript
☐ one copy of any supporting materials

Unnecessary submission
☐ If you have already completed an ATC and it was approved, you don’t need to submit another. If you need to substitute more than three courses for the ones on your original ATC, you need to fill out an ATC Substitution Form.
Submitting the Proposal for Culminating Experience (PCE) form:

☐ Submit this form one semester before you intend to graduate.
☐ You can find the PCE form here: http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/current-student-forms
☐ Be sure to type your form online.

☐ Deadlines for you to submit this form to your thesis supervisor and to your entire committee:
  o Fall Deadline: September 14
  o Spring Deadline: February 15

☐ Please submit the one copy of the form with all necessary signatures. Keep a copy of your PCE form. You will need it when you apply for graduation.

☐ Note: You should begin a conversation about your plans with your committee well before this deadline.

☐ Deadline for you to submit this form with all necessary signatures to the Graduate Coordinator:
  o Fall Deadline: October 12
  o Spring Deadline: March 15

**Important:** Your PCE must be submitted to and reviewed by the Graduate Coordinator before it is passed along to Graduate Studies. The timelines in the SFSU Bulletin apply to administrators, not to you! Please see the Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator so that you can be sure you have correctly filled out your forms. (The most common error in filling out this form is that students use more than the allotted 12 words in the titles of their theses.)

[see sample PCE in this packet]
THESIS DEFENSE - DETAILED PROCEDURES

Weeks 1 & 2 of the semester
☐ At the beginning of your final semester, talk with your thesis chair about a do-able timeline for you to complete your thesis and for your chair and committee members to read your drafts and give you comments. You will use these comments to make revisions; note also that in the majority of cases these revisions will be substantial. Be sure to give everyone involved enough time.

Mid-Semester
Work on your rough draft, according to the process upon which you and your chair have agreed.

Week 11 of the semester
By week 11, the final draft of your thesis is complete (ideally, you should complete your thesis well beforehand). A completed draft of a thesis is the last of many drafts; note also that it is a draft that has been vetted by all of the members of your thesis committee. This means that each thesis committee member has agreed that your thesis is acceptable. Once each has done so, notify your committee chair.

The scheduling your defense is a two-step process:
☐ Step one is to pick a date for the defense, which must take place by semester week 12. To get things rolling, you could check your committee’s teaching schedules and suggest a few possible dates when they might all be able to attend.
   - It would be prudent to begin these arrangements much earlier, as there are a number of students finishing each semester. Faculty are sometimes out of town for conferences.
   - Each oral exam must be scheduled such that there is a period of one week before the actual exam. During this week, your completed thesis will be made available in the Department of Philosophy so that any interested party can read it.
   - If you plan to use PowerPoint or other devices, arrange preparation (i.e., obtain the technical devices that will project your materials).

☐ Step two is to email the Philosophy office (both phlsphr@sfsu.edu and grdpbh1@sfsu.edu) with your requested date and time. In your email, also include (1) a PDF of your thesis (it need not be finalized); (2) list your official thesis title, which must be twelve words or less; and (3) list your committee members.

☐ Linda will prepare the necessary forms that will need to be signed at your defense. The student and the committee chair should review the student’s file and contact Linda to let her know which of the following forms to prepare in addition to the Report of Completion of Culminating Experience: Title Change for Culminating Experience, Petition for Committee Revision, Petition for Grade Change (if 898 was taken an earlier semester), etc.

During your Defense:
At your defense, you should plan to give a 10-15 presentation in which you explain the nature and significance of your thesis project and outline the main claims made and your arguments for them. You should prepare a printed handout, though your presentation should not consist of you merely reading your handout. You can use Powerpoint, but it requires prior preparation for which you are responsible (i.e., for obtaining the technical devices that will project your materials). Then you should be prepared to answer questions from your committee. This discussion period usually lasts about 45 minutes to an hour, and then non-committee members are permitted to ask questions. After that, everyone but the committee leaves the room while the committee and other present faculty deliberate. Finally, the results are announced and the candidate is invited back in the room.

Thesis Pages: Format and print out the initial pages of your thesis (on high-quality white paper) that will require signatures: http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/thesis-dissertation-page. Bring these to your defense.
## Graduate Student Timelines

Review the seminar papers you have written during your time as a graduate student. Choose one paper that you would like to expand into a thesis. Contact the professor of that course and arrange a meeting to gain advice about how to develop your ideas: she or he will most probably be the chair of your committee. (You may develop a thesis topic without having written a seminar paper on it, but this is not generally recommended because it may be a lot harder to manage the topic.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Graduating Spring 2018</th>
<th>Graduating Fall 2018</th>
<th>Graduating Spring 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review seminar papers</td>
<td>Spring 2017 (a year before graduation)</td>
<td>Fall 2017 (a year before graduation)</td>
<td>Spring 2018 (a year before graduation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work closely with your committee.</td>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATC to Graduate Program Administrative Coordinator</td>
<td>9/6/17</td>
<td>2/14/18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCE to your entire thesis committee</td>
<td>9/22/17</td>
<td>2/23/18</td>
<td>9/14/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCE to Graduate Coordinator Assistant (Linda)</td>
<td>10/13/17</td>
<td>3/16/18</td>
<td>9/28/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrange meetings with your committee and with the Graduate Adviser.</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Application for Graduation to Graduate Studies</td>
<td>Mid-Feb. 2018</td>
<td>9/28/18</td>
<td>2/15/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit new ATC to Graduate Coordinator (see instructions at the end of this packet)</td>
<td>2/14/18</td>
<td>9/28/18</td>
<td>2/15/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The final draft of your thesis is complete.</td>
<td>4/13/18</td>
<td>Early-Nov. 2018</td>
<td>4/19/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beware of some timing issues (continued on the next page):
- Each oral exam should be scheduled such that there is a period of at least one week before the actual exam. During this week, your completed thesis will be made available in the Department of Philosophy so that any interested party can read it.
Graduate Student Timelines

Note also:

Linda Leonard will make a public announcement of your oral exam date. Linda will need the following: title of your thesis; date, time, and place of the defense; names of committee members.

Linda will prepare the necessary forms. The student and the committee chair should review the students’ file and contact Linda to let her know which of the following forms to prepare in addition to the Report of Completion of Culminating Experience: Title Change for Culminating Experience, Petition for Committee Revision, Petition for Grade Change (if 898 was taken an earlier semester), etc.

THESIS PAGES

When you schedule your defense, please also format and print out the relevant first pages of your thesis that will require signatures (these will need to be printed on plain white paper) [http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/thesis-dissertation-page](http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/thesis-dissertation-page). These forms are due to Linda at least one week before your defense. She will have them signed by your committee and hold on to them until you have officially passed your defense. At that point, you are responsible for procuring the pages and including them in the copy of your thesis that you will submit to the library.

Bring your thesis to Graduate Studies (ADM 254) for a format check. See this link for important information: [http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/thesis](http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/thesis).

This is the last date by which you can take the oral exam. This date ensures that if you need to do additional work on the thesis, you have time to do so before the final paperwork is due to Graduate Studies.

REPORT OF COMPLETION (RC)

Please request that this form is signed by the following: your committee members, the Graduate Coordinator, and the Chair of the Department (the College Graduate Coordinator may substitute for the Chair) and submitted to Linda Leonard. (Linda will make sure that your RC is submitted immediately (if you pass without condition) or at the appropriate later time (if you pass with condition).

Note: It is not uncommon that students pass the exam with condition. If you receive such results, you will have until the date Graduate Studies requires theses to be submitted (see below) to fulfill any conditions and print your exam on plain white paper and to the formatting specifications required by the university.

By this date, you should have completed all incompletes as well as the relevant paperwork, all of which need to be signed by the professor of the class and the department chair.

By this date, you should bring your thesis to Graduate Division.

- They will certify that the thesis is signed and that it is formatted correctly. They will give you a thesis receipt. Next, you should bring your thesis and receipt to the Library's Digital Resource Center.
- They will charge you (somewhere between $30-50) for a library copy.
- Please purchase a copy for the Department of Philosophy as well. And purchase one for yourself and other interested parties.

Go to Graduation Ceremonies. This is not required, but it is recommended!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduating Spring 2018</th>
<th>Graduating Fall 2018</th>
<th>Graduating Spring 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third Friday of April</td>
<td>Third Friday of November</td>
<td>Third Friday of April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20/18</td>
<td>Mid-Nov. 2018</td>
<td>4/26/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/5/18</td>
<td>12/8/18</td>
<td>5/10/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They will certify that the thesis is signed and that it is formatted correctly. They will give you a thesis receipt. Next, you should bring your thesis and receipt to the Library's Digital Resource Center.

Please purchase a copy for the Department of Philosophy as well. And purchase one for yourself and other interested parties.

Go to Graduation Ceremonies. This is not required, but it is recommended!

The Philosophy Department throws a great party! Please invite your family and friends.
TIMELINE FOR APPLYING TO PH.D. PROGRAMS

Spring and Summer

☐ Make appointments with your professors so that you can talk with them about your plans.

☐ Begin thinking about which paper you will submit as your writing sample. Note that you may want to revise (and perhaps lengthen) your paper with the help of one or more of your professors. This is true even if you received an A on this paper.

☐ Study for and take the GRE.
  o Note that it is highly recommended that you study for and take this exam before the fall semester when you will apply for programs. This is because the process of applying for programs itself can be a time-consuming task, it you should not over burden yourself during this time.
  o If you google ‘GRE’ the GRE homepage will come up. Follow the links for information about the different kinds of exams (paper-based, computer-based), how many times you can take the exam, different ways of receiving your scores, etc.

☐ Consider many different graduate programs. In doing so, consult the following:
  o directories and brochures at the library,
  o departmental web pages,
  o Peterson’s Annual Guide to Graduate Study and Directory of American Philosophers (available in the library),
  o the Leiter Report (this report is especially good for graduate programs that focus on analytic philosophy; see http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/),
  o information provided by the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (for graduate programs that focus on continental philosophy, click on ‘resources’ at www.spep.org)

☐ Think about which professors you will ask to write letters that recommend you.

☐ Ask three professors to write letters that recommend you. These professors should be: (1) your thesis committee chair; (2) the second person on your thesis committee; (3) one of the following: the third person on your committee, if you have one; a faculty member in whose graduate seminar you did superb work; a faculty member for whom you have TAed; (note: this third person does not need to be doing research in your field). Be aware that all faculty need to know of your request before the beginning of September so that they can budget their time. Note also that faculty are sometimes on leave and are not available to write letters in the fall, which is a good reason for contacting them in spring or summer. Keep in mind that under the current modes of submitting recommendations electronically, the submission of each letter is enormously time consuming for faculty; for this reason, faculty may put a limit on the number of letters they will submit on your behalf.

☐ Note: When you ask the professors to write your letters, be sure to ask whether or not they will be able to write you a good letter (you should not have any lukewarm letters in your dossier).

Early September

☐ Gather application forms (and financial aid and housing information) from the programs to which you are considering applying. Schools prefer that you complete on-line applications. Be sure to check departmental web pages for application important information and deadlines.
In deciding where to apply, consider the specialties, placement record, character, and size of the program. You should also consider the pros and cons of M.A. versus Ph.D. programs.

You should apply to a number of programs. The competition is stiff, and you should be sure to apply to a number of “fall back” schools. (People often recommend submitting ten applications.)

Draft your statement of intent.

Work on your writing sample.

Connect with the professors who will write your letters. Talk with them about your progress with respect to where you will apply, your statement of intent, and your writing sample.

At this point, you should be able to provide to your letter writers the following:

- a list of the schools to which you are applying,
- clear directions about to where the letters should be sent,
- your unofficial transcripts,
- a draft of your statement of intent,
- a draft of your writing sample,
- prior work you did for their classes.

October to December

Work on your statement of intent and writing sample. Show drafts of these to the professors who are writing letters that recommend you.

January and February (sometimes December)

Applications are due!

There are several online sites that discuss the process of applying to PhD programs. Below are just a few:

- The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy
  - http://philosophy.uchicago.edu/prospective/admissions.html

- Brian Leiter’s Philosophical Gourmet Report

Other sites you may want to examine:

- Philosophy Graduate Schools Friendly to Continental Philosophy
  - http://www.earlham.edu/~phil/gradsch.htm

- NYU’s Listing of Graduate Programs
  - http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/phil/guides/reallguide.html

Information about Midwestern graduate schools to which you can apply for free:

- https://www.cic.net/students/freeapp/introduction

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FORM TO CHANGE STANDING FROM
CONDITIONALLY CLASSIFIED → CLASSIFIED

① Fill out this form

② Check the first box indicating "ACCEPTED to CLASSIFIED standing"

→ Submit to Graduate Coordinator Assistant with:
  • Paperwork showing which prerequisites were required
  • Transcript showing that prerequisites were completed
**ATC Form**

- Complete online and print out (must be typed)
- Submit to 715 Advisor with:
  - 1 copy of SFSU transcript
  - 1 copy of Request for Transfer Unit Evaluation (if relevant)

1. Date of your 1st semester in M.A. Program
2. All four courses are graduate seminars
3. One course must be at graduate level
4. Three courses may be at undergraduate level

*This is a flexible category:*

- 717, 899 can count here, as can graduate seminars (in PHIL or related field) and undergraduate classes (in PHIL or related field)
- See SFSU Bulletin for restrictions

715: Take during your 1st year of graduate coursework
896: Take during your 2nd or 3rd semester of graduate coursework
898: Take during your final semester
PROPOSAL FOR CULMINATING EXPERIENCE
898: THESIS

THESIS RECEIPT REQUIRED UPON COMPLETION

Complete, print and file this form with the Division of Graduate Studies in accordance with guidelines published in the University Bulletin.

NO HANDWRITTEN FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED

1. Official Degree Title as listed in the University Bulletin:

[ ] Master of Arts
[ ] Master of Philosophy

If your major is Philosophy, please indicate the emphasis if applicable:

2. Name

[ ] Student ID

[ ] Phone

[ ] Email

3. [ ] Check here if this is a REVISED proposal (withdrawing previous proposal)

4. [ ] I plan to register for the 898 course in [enter form and year]: ______ or [ ] I previously registered for the 898

5. Title (Limit 12 words): [Report any title change to the Division of Graduate Studies prior to being completed work]

6. Brief statement of project and research methods (must fit in space allotted):

7. Proposed timeline for completion of culminating experience

Submit in detail with your advisor. Indicate dates when sectionspecific work will be due to faculty for review.

PLAN FOR COMPLETION OF CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIST COMPONENTS OR REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION</th>
<th>DATES TO BE SUBMITTED TO FACULTY FOR REVIEW</th>
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[ ] Enrollment of thesis committee and to Dept. of Philosophy. Schedule Oral Exam

Week 11

[ ] Week of Thesis Defense

Week 12

[ ] Milestone necessary: [submit to committee: submit to Grad Studies and Library]

Week 15

[ ] Plan to complete in [fall, spring, summer]: [year]

[ ] I have reviewed the above with my committee members and agree to the terms of the projected timeline

[ ] [Student's signature]

[ ] [Date]

COMPLETE PAGE 2 AND OBTAIN ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES

1. Work with your Committee Chair to formulate a plan for your thesis drafts. List these components here.

2. List these weeks and components on your PCE

3. Student signs here
IF YOUR PROJECT INVOLVES RESEARCH WITH HUMANS, ANIMALS OR BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS (tissues, biopsies, etc.),
YOU MUST PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

- Depending on the nature of your project, SF State may require you to submit information to the Human and Animal Protection (HAP)
  through project registration or approval. Contact HAP at hapatelier@sfsu.edu or 415-338-1093
  1. If you have received approval or granted access through HAP, attach the official approval or determination notice
     and select one of the following:
     - My project has been approved by the IRB or IACUC and I have attached the approval notice
     - My project has been determined to be Exempt or Excepted by HAP and I have attached the notice of exemption
  2. If your project has been submitted to HAP and is currently reviewed, provide the date submitted to HAP
     and indicate the submission type: Application for Determination of Exemption, Protocol,
     or Email Inquiry
  3. If your research is covered under someone else’s protocol, you need to register with HAP, and indicate one of the following:
     - My project is covered under an SF State faculty member’s protocol. Protocol # (if already approved)
     - My project is covered under an approved protocol at another institution
  4. If you are unsure if your project is considered human subject research, submit an Application for Determination of Exemption to
     HAP at hapatelier@sfsu.edu or hapatelier@sfstate.edu

IMPORTANT. DO NOT BEGIN YOUR RESEARCH UNTIL YOU RECEIVE NOTICE OF APPROVAL, EXEMPTION OR EXCEPTION

REQUIRED NAMES AND ORIGINAL SIGNATURES

> Supervising Committee: must receive a minimum of two (2) or more

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:

1. Is available to work with student? (1) during winter break: YES / NO (1) during the summer months: YES / NO

Chair Name

SIGNATURE

TYPEPRINT NAME, ACADEMIC RANK AND DEPT

EMAIL (REQUIRED)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MEMBERS)

NATURE

TYPEPRINT NAME, ACADEMIC RANK AND DEPT

NATURE

TYPEPRINT NAME, ACADEMIC RANK AND DEPT

10. Department Chair: I have reviewed the above proposal including the composition of the supervising committee and
    I approve the minor/major/graduate coordinator(s)

COORDINATOR

NATURE

TYPEPRINT NAME AND TITLE

DATE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

exemption

Approved protocol #

Exempt

Date

Excepted

Date

By

Date

Chair of Department