

Graduate Program Requirements

May 3, 2015

Course Requirements

Graduate students must complete the courses below with an overall average of at least B+.

- An Advanced Logic Course
- 8 Research-Paper Courses that fulfill distribution requirements (including the Proseminar)
- 5 Non-Research Paper Courses
- The Third-Year Paper Seminar
- The Dissertation Seminar

Explanation of Course types

Students may elect to take any Rutgers Philosophy Seminar as either a Research-Paper course or a Non-Research-Paper course (except for courses used to fulfill the logic requirement). Detailed requirements for these are listed below.

Advanced Logic Course

Students must take an advanced logic course e.g., philosophically useful logic, set theory.

5 Non-Research-Paper Courses

When a seminar is taken as a Non-Research-paper course, the student will not be required to complete a substantial research paper. Instead, students will complete one extra assignment, chosen at the discretion of the course instructor, and due by the end of the exam period. This assignment could be a 3000 word writing assignment or its equivalent. The student must complete all other requirements for the course, including attendance, readings, presentations, etc. Students must inform instructor that the course will be taken as non-research-paper course prior to exam period. Instructors will assign grades at the end of semester. Non-Research-Paper Courses will *not* count towards distribution requirements.

8 Research-Paper Courses

When a student takes a seminar as a Research-Paper Course, the student will complete a traditional research paper. Students must inform instructor that course will be taken as Research-Paper Course prior to exam period. Due date policies are determined by the instructor. These courses must satisfy the distribution requirements listed below.

Research-Paper Distribution Requirements

- Pro-Seminar (Fall of first semester).
- Two history seminars (typically, one pre-modern, one early modern).
- One value theory course (normative ethics, metaethics; aesthetics; social, political, or legal philosophy; or applied issues in these fields)
- Three seminars selected from three of the following subjects: (i) philosophy of mind, (ii) philosophy of language, (iii) metaphysics, (iv) epistemology, (v) one course in value theory, typically in a sub-area distinct from that taken to satisfy the value theory course, and (vi) philosophy of science

Third-Year Paper Seminar:

This seminar will be convened each fall. The seminar is designed to facilitate completion of Third-Year Paper requirement listed below. Students

should take this in the Fall Semester of their third year. One professor will serve as instructor. The instructor will recruit one additional faculty member each week to attend and read papers (this second faculty member will be a different one each week). Faculty are expected to be available once per year, *ceteris paribus*. This will be a “work-in-progress” seminar, similar to the Dissertation Seminar. Each week, the Professors and students will read other students’ papers and give feedback.

Dissertation Seminar

A dissertation seminar is offered in the Spring. Before actively pursuing a full-time teaching position, students are expected to enroll in the dissertation seminar at least once, but may take it as often as they like while writing the dissertation. Each week, the seminar will focus on a chapter from a different student’s dissertation. Although the faculty member leading the discussion and the other participants may not be experts in a given student’s field, they will be able to provide useful feedback of other sorts. The main goals of the seminar are: (i) to help students learn to write more clearly and (insofar as the subject matter allows) simply; (ii) to promote facility in explaining the central ideas of their research to philosophers who are not working in their area; and (iii) to convey general departmental and university expectations about the structure of a dissertation.

Courses at other Universities

With permission of the Graduate Director, students may take courses at other universities (there is a regular exchange with Princeton, NYU, Columbia and CUNY Graduate Center via the Inter-University Doctoral Consortium). With the approval of the Graduate Director, students may also receive credit for graduate courses taken prior to admission to the program (transferring no more than 8 courses, or 24 credits). Which sort of credit, and which distribution requirements, are fulfilled for by courses is determined by the Graduate Director on a case-by-case basis.

Additional Requirements

Introductory Logic Requirement

It is expected that most incoming students will have taken symbolic logic courses that include translations between English and propositional and predicate logic, proof techniques (e.g., natural deduction or truth trees), and the basic concepts of metalogic (e.g., soundness and completeness). First year students without appropriate undergraduate coursework must demonstrate competence in these areas by the end of Fall semester, either by taking an exam, by enrollment in a logic course, or by other arrangement with the director of graduate studies.

Third-Year Paper

By end of Spring Semester of the third year, students must submit a Third-Year paper. This paper should be well polished, and of high enough quality to be published in a well-respected journal. This paper may be one written or begun previously, but it must see substantial revisions during the course of the third-year paper seminar (see above). Completion of this paper is a requirement for becoming a doctoral candidate. Final versions of this paper will be submitted to the instructor of the third-year paper seminar at the end of Spring semester of the student's third year.

Dissertation Proposal Defense

The student forms a pre-dissertation committee of three members, to be approved by the director of graduate studies. With their guidance, the student selects a dissertation topic or project and can either write a review of literature relevant to that topic or a first chapter of the dissertation. After having also written a dissertation proposal, the student then meets with the committee for a proposal defense. Upon approval of the proposal by the committee the student advances to candidacy.

Research in Philosophy Credits

Students must sign up for 24 credits of "Research In Philosophy" following the completion of 48 credits of coursework.

Dissertation

The student forms a dissertation committee (approved by his or her advisor and the director of graduate studies) consisting of at least three Rutgers philosophers (at least two of whom must be regular members of the department; others may be associates of the philosophy department based in another Rutgers department such as linguistics, psychology, or classics); students are strongly encouraged to include additionally a committee member from another university. The dissertation is a substantial piece of research. It may consist of a number of papers on related issues, together with an introduction that describes the ways in which the topics of the papers are interconnected or linked with broader problems; or a more sustained book length treatment of a single issue. The dissertation must be successfully defended (all members of the committee must accept it).

Timetable for Satisfactory Progress

- Year 1 At least 6 Rutgers courses taken, including 4 Research Papers, and coursework completed on schedule.
- Year 2 At least 12 courses taken and coursework completed on schedule; at least 8 of these courses must be research paper courses.
- Year 3 All course requirements (except Dissertation Seminar) completed by end of grading period, Spring semester. Third-Year Paper completed.
- Year 4 Dissertation proposal accepted by March 15.

Cognitive Science Certificate

Students enrolled in the RuCCS cognitive science certificate program will have the same requirements for their philosophy degree, with one exception. These students will be only be required to take 2 non-research courses, instead of 5. These students must also meet all the requirements for the cognitive science certificate as outlined by the Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science.

Implementation

The new requirements will apply to all new students beginning in Fall 2015. Current students will have the choice of using the new or old requirements.