

Tips for MAAPE Students

Greetings! Applied Philosophy is one of the emerging fields in the discipline, and the Department of Philosophy at Texas State University-San Marcos is pleased to offer a master's degree in Applied Philosophy and Ethics.

This handbook reviews some of the important requirements of and information about the program. Further information may be found at the Department of Philosophy website (www.txstate.edu/philosophy/). Do not hesitate to consult with the Graduate Advisor, Department Chair, or other faculty if you have any questions about the program.

Graduate Advisor:

Audrey McKinney
134 Psy
512.245.2047
amckinney@txstate.edu

Assistant Graduate Advisor:

Craig Hanks
134 Psy
512.245.2285
ch25@txstate.edu

Chair of the Philosophy Department:

Vince Luizzi
130 Psy
512.245.2285
vluzzi@txstate.edu

Coursework requirements:

All students are required to take **Phil 5301** (Applied Philosophy) and **Phil 5302** (Dialogue). Both of these courses can be repeated (one time) for credit.

Nine credit hours of coursework ("free electives") must be chosen from cognate fields *other than* philosophy (e.g., Anthropology, English, History, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies) and require approval by the Graduate Advisor. The three courses will be drawn from a single discipline or will collectively comprise a coherent area of applied study.

Students will choose either the **thesis** or **non-thesis option**:

Thesis option. Students on the thesis track are required to complete 30 hours of coursework and to take **Phil 5399A** (Thesis) *and* **Phil 5399B** (Thesis). (Phil 5399B may be repeated, but only six hours of thesis coursework can be counted toward the degree.)

Non-thesis option. Students choosing not to write a thesis are required to complete 33 credit hours, compile a portfolio of their coursework, and successfully participate in an exit examination.

IA positions:

A limited number of Instructional Assistant positions are available each year, and students in the MAAPE program and the MSIS program in Sustainability are eligible to apply. IAs typically assist the instructor of record in the large sections of Philosophy and Critical Reasoning and Ethics and Society. Applications for the position of IA are accepted in the spring semester. (For the due dates for applications, see the Graduate Advisor or Departmental Chair.) The IA position may be renewed for a second year given satisfactory performance. IAs are required to be enrolled in 9 hours of graduate coursework each semester of their employment and, during their first three semesters in the IA position, must enroll in Phil 5100 (Practicum in Teaching Philosophy). Phil 5100 does not earn graduate credit.

IAs are expected to undertake with diligence their responsibilities both as IAs and as students in the MAAPE program; failure to do so will result in a review by the department's Personnel Committee. The Graduate College requires that an IA maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and the Departmental expectation is that an IA achieves a 3.0 each semester.

Certificate in Professional Ethics:

Students in the MAAPE program may earn the six-hour Certificate in Professional Ethics by taking Phil 5322 (Professional Ethics). Either Phil 5301 (Applied Philosophy) or Phil 5302 (Dialogue) can be used to fulfill the remaining three credit hour requirement.

To be eligible for the Certificate, you need to submit an application (and a \$10 fee) through the Graduate College. Once you have completed the required course work (with a 3.00 average in the two courses), you will also need to submit an Application of Completion.

For further information and links to the application forms, please consult:
http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Prospect_Students/Pgms_Apps/TXST_Cert.html

Independent Study Courses (Phil 5388):

Phil 5388 courses serve primarily as independent study/directed reading courses when students have a specific area that they wish to study in greater depth than typically offered by a course. Sometimes as well students take Phil 5388 to have the opportunity to attend an upper-level undergraduate course and undertake additional work under the guidance of the course instructor. In either event, a student must secure permission from the supervising instructor in advance before being able to enroll in the course.

Online Courses:

At present, both Phil 5301 (Applied Philosophy) and Phil 5322 (Professional Ethics) are offered online each Spring and Fall semester as well as during some summer sessions.

Applying for Graduation:

As you embark on your final semester's work in the MAAPE program, keep in mind the need to formally apply for graduation. Typically, the deadline for the application is the eighth week of classes (e.g., *before* Spring Break during the spring semesters). For further details and the deadlines for the present semester, see the Graduate College website:

http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Current_Students/Graduation.html

Portfolio and Exit Examination (NON-THESIS students):

Non-thesis students are required to compile a portfolio of their work in the MAAPE program (papers, exams, projects) and, at the completion of their coursework, to participate in a comprehensive oral exit examination. Your portfolio should include a summative essay that focuses on and evaluates your philosophical development in the program. Plan on turning in your portfolio by

mid-semester. The Philosophy Faculty will review the portfolio to determine whether you have met program expectations. Any deficiencies in the portfolio must be addressed no later than one week before the Exit Examination.

The Exit Examination is conducted by the Department at the close of the Fall and Spring semesters. If you expect to graduate during the summer, you may participate in the Exit Examination during the immediately preceding spring semester.

Information for THESIS-TRACK students: a step-by-step guide to thesis preparation

Thesis-track students in the MAAPE program are required to take two thesis courses, Phil 5399A and Phil 5399B. Phil 5399B may be repeated until the thesis work is complete, however, only three credits of Phil 5399B can be applied toward the MAAPE degree.

Your first task in your thesis work will be to identify a thesis topic. It is often helpful to use as a springboard for your thesis work exploratory papers or arguments you've crafted in earlier coursework. A strong background in the area that you will address in your thesis is of inestimable benefit. It is best to do at least some of the preliminary work for your thesis *before* the final year of your studies, perhaps by engaging in an intensive independent study course centered on your potential thesis topic.

Once you have identified a thesis topic, the main steps in your thesis work will include:

- 1) Choosing a member of the Philosophy Graduate Faculty who agrees to serve as thesis advisor and chair of the thesis committee
- 2) Forming a thesis committee
- 3) Submitting a thesis proposal
- 4) Submitting the thesis draft to your committee members
- 5) Defending the thesis
- 6) Revising the thesis (if necessary)
- 7) Submitting the thesis to the Graduate College

Selection of the committee chair and thesis committee. It is your responsibility to discuss your thesis topic and plan of research with Graduate Faculty members with expertise in that area and to find one who agrees to serve as the Committee Chair for your thesis. (See below for a list of Graduate Faculty.) Your thesis chair will give the permission necessary to enroll in Phil 5399A, the initial thesis course.

In consultation with your thesis advisor, you will identify at least two other faculty members who agree to serve on the thesis committee. The two committee members may be chosen from the Graduate Faculty in Philosophy. One of your committee members may be from another Texas State department or from outside the university. All members must be approved by the Graduate College as Graduate Faculty. Your committee must be approved by the Chair of the Philosophy Department; this approval can be secured when you submit your proposal to the Chair.

The discussion of thesis preparation that follows has been adapted and condensed from the "Graduate College Guide to Preparing and Submitting a Thesis or Dissertation": http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/Thes_Info.html

Preparing and submitting the thesis proposal. Working with the chair of your committee and other committee members, you will craft a thesis proposal: the proposal should clearly indicate the topic you plan to explore, your line of argument, and the methods and background research that you will draw upon. The proposal must be formatted using the MLA or Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian).

☞ **If your thesis research will involve the use of *any* “human subjects” (e.g., interviews, surveys, observational studies),** then you will need to secure either an exemption for or approval of your research from the Texas State University Institutional Review Board (IRB). **YOU MUST OBTAIN THE IRB APPROVAL BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR THESIS PROPOSAL TO THE GRADUATE COLLEGE.**

You cannot secure an IRB exemption or approval without first completing the on-line CITI training program entitled ‘Social and Behavioral Research Students’. For more information go to: www.txstate.edu/research/orc/humans-in-research/training.html

The chair of your thesis committee will also be required to complete an on-line CITI training program (‘Social and Behavioral Research’).

Do not submit your request for exemption or approval until both you and your thesis chair have completed the required training modules.

The on-line application for IRB approval for research involving human subjects can be found at: www.osp.txstate.edu/irb/

Colleague-to-colleague communication does not require IRB approval.

If your thesis research will involve the use of *any* “animal subjects”, the research will need to be registered with and certified by the Texas State University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Both you and your thesis chair will be required to do relevant on-line CITI training. For further information, see: www.txstate.edu/research/orc/animals-in-research.html

The signature form to accompany your thesis proposal can be accessed at: http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/T-D_Forms.html

When your thesis proposal has been approved and signed by the chair and other members of the committee, you will submit the proposal to the Graduate College.

The approved proposal should be submitted before the close of the semester in which you are enrolled in Phil 5399A.

Following your work in Phil 5399A, you will enroll in Phil 5399B.

Submitting the thesis draft to your committee members. Take careful note of the date on which the thesis draft is due to your committee members. A complete (defensible) draft is to be delivered to the committee members at the close of the eighth week of classes (mid-semester) of the semester in which you plan to defend and graduate. You will have the opportunity to make revisions based upon the comments of your committee members before the thesis oral defense; the defense is to be held on or before the eleventh week of classes. (NOTE: this is *three weeks* before the end of classes.)

The deadlines for each semester are to be found at the Graduate College website: http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/T-D_Deadlines.html

These can be very difficult deadlines to meet if you begin writing the thesis in earnest only at the beginning of the semester. If you do not meet the deadlines, it will be necessary for you to enroll the following semester in Phil 5399B.

(DO NOT PLAN ON HAVING A THESIS DEFENSE SCHEDULED DURING EITHER OF THE SUMMER SESSIONS. If you do not complete your thesis in the spring semester, you should expect to enroll in Phil 5399B again in the fall.)

You must be enrolled in Phil 5399B in the semester that your thesis is completed and submitted to the Graduate College and Alkek Library. If you are a Texas resident and enrolled *only* in Phil 5399B in your final semester of graduate work, you may qualify for a fee reduction. For information on the fee reduction see: http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/Thes_Fee_Reduc.html

Defending the thesis. The thesis defense is an oral examination conducted by the members of your thesis committee. The defense will typically open with your brief (10-15 minute) presentation of your thesis, followed by discussion and questions. Questions may concern your thesis or any other areas of your study that the thesis committee deems relevant. The thesis defense also serves as the exit examination for students on the thesis-track. The Committee Chair, in consultation with you, will determine whether the thesis defense will be closed (only members of the committee may attend), by invitation (only the committee members and select, invited guests may attend), or open (all interested persons may attend).

It is common for the committee members to request revisions to the thesis document after the thesis defense, so it is best to schedule the defense leaving adequate time for revisions prior to the due date of the thesis to the Graduate College. The thesis turned in to the Graduate College **MUST** be formatted using *either* the Chicago Manual of Style *or* MLA style and must accord precisely with

the directions of the Graduate College. See the “Graduate College Guide to Preparing and Submitting a Thesis or Dissertation” accessible at:

http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/Thes_Info.html

Failure to follow the Graduate College guidelines can delay your graduation.

Graduate Faculty*

Fulmer, Gil (Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysics)

Geuras, Dean (Analytic Philosophy, Ethics in Public Policy)

Gordon, Jeffrey (Existentialism, Phenomenology, Meaning of Life)

Hanks, Craig (Philosophy of Technology, American Pragmatism, Critical Theory, Social and Political Philosophy, Applied Ethics)

Hutcheson, Peter (Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Phenomenology and Existentialism, Philosophy of Religion, Descartes, Hume)

Joy, Glenn (Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Classical Utilitarianism)

Luizzi, Vince (Ethics, Philosophy of Law, American, Professional Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy)

McKinney, Audrey (Environmental Ethics, Logic, Philosophy of Logic, Philosophy of Sexuality, Philosophy of Film)

Raphael, Rebecca (Biblical Studies, Classics, Literary Criticism, Religious Studies)

Yuan, LiJun (Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, Asian Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy)

Associate Graduate Faculty*

Barcenas, Alejandro (History of Philosophy, Latin American Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy, Asian Philosophy (Chinese, Japanese and Buddhist philosophy), Aesthetics, Political Theory)

Benedikt, Amelie (Existentialism, Aesthetics, History of Philosophy, Ethics)

Carson, Jo Ann (Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of Language, Applied Philosophy, Theory of Dialectic/Dialogue)

Fischer, Robert (Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language, Contemporary Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion)

Lewis, Holly (Aesthetics, Social and Political Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Media Theory, Gender)

Marquez, Ivan (Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, Latin American Philosophy, 20th Century Continental Philosophy, Ancient and Early Medieval Philosophy, Evolutionary Complexity and Systems Thinking, Early Analytic Philosophy, Pragmatism)

*Members of the Graduate Faculty may direct master's theses as well as serve as thesis committee members. Members of the Associate Graduate Faculty may serve as thesis committee members and, with special permission, may serve as chair of master's thesis committees.

