

GRADUATE HANDBOOK
Program in the History and Philosophy of Science
Florida State University
September 2006

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ADMISSION

The program admits students into the M.A. program.

To be admitted to this program, a student must attain a total score of at least 1100 (verbal plus quantitative) on the Graduate Record Examination, and must have had at least a 3.0 grade point average during the last two years as an undergraduate (satisfaction of these requirements is, of course, not a guarantee of admission).

To receive applications for admission to the program and to the university, please contact the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1500? (Telephone 850-644-7248).

Further information about Florida State University may be obtained at www.fsu.edu. Further

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APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications for Fall admission are due by February 1. Spring applications are due by October 1, but Spring admission is only granted in exceptional cases. Financial Aid Applications are due February 1. In general, applications for Spring admission are not considered for Financial Aid (see below). There are no admissions for Summer.

In addition to the university application, a student must submit (1) a program application (2) three letters of recommendation, preferably from university faculty who are familiar with your academic work, (3) a 200-500 word statement of academic interests and professional goals and (4) a writing sample of a student paper of at least 1200 words in length, preferably one representing research in HPS or a related subject. Applicants are encouraged to contact directly faculty members whose research interests and expertise correspond to their own, since a faculty member must agree to serve as the major professor.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum admission requirements are established by the State legislature and enforced by the graduate school. Under university regulations, however, requirements for admission to the graduate programs in history at Florida State are higher. At the minimum, for admission to the HPS master's program the student must have (1) a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, and (2) a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale as an upper-division undergraduate student and (3) a minimum score of 1100 on the combined verbal and quantitative portions of the general aptitude portion of the Graduate Record Examination. (The program accepts GRE scores no more than seven years old.) Occasionally an applicant who fails to meet these requirements, but who possesses special qualifications, may be admitted on a provisional basis; under these circumstances students will be required to correct the deficiency within the first semester and according to conditions imposed by the department and the university. The applicant's baccalaureate degree need not be in history and philosophy of science, but, unless the circumstances are exceptional, he or she should have completed some coursework in history, philosophy, religion, and/or science.

MEETING THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM. If admission is refused, the student may discuss the matter with the director of the program. If the student fails to meet any of these requirements, admission may, in rare cases, be granted

MAJOR PROFESSOR

Upon admission, each graduate student is assigned to a major professor from the graduate faculty. These assignments are based upon research interests and expertise. The major professor will be the student's advisor and mentor, and should be consulted regularly on the program of study and progress toward the degree. The relationship is an important one; students who find that the assigned major professor was not a good match may move to another major professor, providing that one is available and agrees to accept the student.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A number of teaching assistantships, carrying taxable stipends, are available to currently enrolled graduate students and to new applicants. A small number of fellowships, awarded by the University or the College, are also available. Holders of fellowships are not required to perform any assistantship work. Students may apply for assistantships and fellowships by completing the departmental application for admission (see above).

Applications for financial assistance will not be considered until all of a student's application material has been received by the department. To receive priority for teaching assistantships and fellowships, completed applications should be received by **February 1**. Further full or partial teaching assistantships may be available for applications received by **April 30**.

UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS

The graduate school has a limited number of university, minority, and college fellowships. These fellowships pay nine-month stipends from \$6,300 to \$20,000. Applications should be filed with the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies before December 15 for the next school year. Students should have a minimum GRE (verbal and quantitative) score of 1350 and a minimum GPA of 3.75 to apply. These fellowships are highly competitive and applications are judged by university-wide committees. The Department strongly encourages qualified students to apply for these awards.

Information on other forms of financial assistance (grants and loans) may be obtained from:
Office of Financial Aid, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2430
(Telephone: 850-644-5716).

OBTAINING FLORIDA RESIDENCY

Students who are not granted state resident status at the time of their admission must petition for a change of that status through the Registrar's Office at the end of their first year (usually in June). Procedures for reclassification of residency include:

Evidence of legal ties to the State of Florida:

Declaration of Domicile (**REQUIRED**) obtainable in person from the Clerk of the Circuit Court in the County Court House of the Florida County in which the student claims permanent domicile. (The fee in Leon County is currently \$15.00.)

Copies of driver's license, voters and vehicle registration. Legal ties with a previous state of residence must be switched to Florida within 30 days of filing your Declaration of Domicile.

Official confirmation of Graduate Assistantship by the School or College with which you have been on appointment. The graduate assistant verification form must be completed by your department representative.

Proof of financial independence. In most cases the formal **STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE**, which is included on the graduate assistant verification form will be sufficient.

Proof of twelve months' continuous physical presence in Florida; immediately prior to the first day of classes for the semester you wish to apply for residency. Documentation may include: Florida lease agreements, utility bills, bank records, etc.

Submit an official application for reclassification of residency, with required documentation, prior to the first day of classes.

Graduate students not on assistantship during their first year of enrollment should contact the Registrar's Office as soon as possible, as this information does not apply. If you have questions or need more information, please contact:

Office of the University Registrar
The Florida State University
A-3900 University Center 32306-2480
PHONE: (850) 644-1050 FAX: (850) 644-1597

REGISTRATION

Registration is conducted by telephone or via the Internet at specified times for all new students and continuing students. Course registration information, including proposed course listings, is available on the FSU web site several months before a semester begins.

FULL-TIME STUDENT LOAD

Twelve hours per semester constitute a full-time load for graduate students. The maximum number of hours a graduate student may carry without special permission is fifteen.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Courses in which a graduate student receives less than a B- will not count toward a graduate degree. A graduate student whose cumulative grade point average for courses taken at Florida State University falls below 3.0 at the end of a term will be placed on academic probation. If a 3.0 cumulative grade point average is not attained by the end of the next full term of enrollment, the student will not be permitted to re-register for graduate study. However, the student's major professor may petition the academic dean and the dean of Graduate Studies for an exception to this regulation, but under no circumstances will a student be allowed more than one additional term of probation. After one probationary period a student whose average falls within the probationary range will be automatically dismissed.

LIBRARY PRIVILEGES

After registration each student should obtain material on the use of the library from the information desk on the first floor of Strozier Library and take a guided tour. Tours are scheduled on a regular basis. Interlibrary loan privileges are available to graduate students for research purposes.

M.A. DEGREE

The HPS Program offers a thesis M.A. and a terminal M.A. (without a thesis). The thesis option

requires the completion of an M.A. thesis (see below), and the examination option requires the completion of additional coursework and a paper of publishable quality.

M.A. Committee

In consultation with the Director, students will select a major professor toward the end of the first year in residence. In consultation with the major professor, a minimum of two other faculty members will be selected to form the student's M.A. committee. (One member may be from outside the department of philosophy if appropriate for the student's area of study.) The M.A. committee will be responsible either for supervising the M.A. thesis (in which case the major professor serves as chair of the thesis committee and the candidate's thesis advisor) or administering the M.A. examination, depending upon which option the student selects. All members of the student's M.A. committee must have at least master's directive status.

Requirements for the M.A.

Cumulative grade point average, incompletes, and evaluation

Each M.A. student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0. Failure to maintain a satisfactory grade point average is a ground for dismissal from the program.

A grade of 'I' ('incomplete') may be given in a course only if the student presents to the instructor a reasonable excuse for not completing course assignments. If there is no agreement with the instructor before grades are due that a grade of 'I' will be given, the student will receive a failing grade. Incompletes may not be extended without the approval of the department. A request for an extension, with justification, should be in the hands of the instructor of record at least 3 weeks before the expiration of the incomplete.

At the end of each Spring semester, all students must prepare a Student Activity Report describing their academic achievements for the preceding year. The department faculty evaluate each student's progress in a meeting normally held during the week in which Spring grades are due. Students then receive a letter from the Director of Graduate Studies reporting the results of this evaluation.

Required Core Courses

All MA Students are required to complete 4 courses drawn from the 6 courses listed below. Students must have at least one course from each of the areas (History, Philosophy, and Religion):

Required History Courses:

- A. HIS 6469, Historiography and Science
- B. HIS 6500, History of Life Sciences

Required Philosophy Courses:

- A. Selected Topics
- B. Survey of Basic Topics

Required Religion Courses

- A. Historiography of Science and Religion

B. Religion, Medicine and Natural Philosophy in the 17th & 18th Centuries

Additional Courses

The following courses represent a sample of FSU courses that could contribute to an HPS MA degree. Other courses are offered in the home departments (Philosophy, Religion, and History) and related departments (including Biological Sciences, Classics, Anthropology, Psychology, etc.)

Conditioning and Learning
Introduction to Symbolic Logic, PHI 3130,
Gender, Authority, and the Politics of Representation in Science and Art
Science, Technology and Society, ISC 3076/CHM 5910
Women and Science, WST 4930-86/WST 5934
Science in Antiquity and The Middle Ages, CLA2810
Biology, Philosophy, and Religion
Science and American Political Culture
U.S. Intellectual History II
The Darwinian Revolution: Science and Society
History of Environmental Sciences
Disease, Race, and Environment
North American Environmental History
Florida Environmental History
Scientific Explanation
Applications of Game Theory to Evolutionary Biology
The History of Racial Thought in Modern Europe
Science, Medicine, and Race in Modern Europe
Science, Technology and Society
Approaches to Bioethics
The Ethics of Reproductive Technology
Philosophy of Science and Educational Research
Modern Logic I
Introduction to Symbolic Logic
Aristotle's Metaphysics and Biology
Aristotle's de Anima
Plato's Timaeus
Gender, Authority and the Politics of Representation In Science and Art
Biogeography
Evolution of the Brain and Cognition

Thesis M.A.

1. Course requirements: 11 courses

- 4 courses out of the total 11 must be drawn from the 6 Core Courses listed above (at least one from each home department, Philosophy, Religion, and History).
- 2 courses (6 credit hours) out of the total 12 must be thesis hours (PHI 5971).
- Students planning to complete the PhD in one of the home departments will need to fulfill additional requirements (see below).

2. Thesis prospectus

During the student's second year in residence, the student is responsible for preparing a thesis prospectus to be approved by every member of the M.A. committee. The thesis prospectus should include a description and defense of a viable research project (5-10 pages) and a bibliography. A graduate seminar paper may be the basis of the prospectus.

3. Thesis

A student's thesis committee is charged with guiding the M.A. candidate through the successful completion of an original piece of work in the history and Philosophy of Science of normally 50-100 pages in length. The student must orally defend the thesis before being awarded the M.A.

Note: The HPS Program is keen for its students to develop the ability to write papers of publishable quality (one of the key components of an academic career). To that end, we encourage students to complete two publishable papers of approximately 30 pages each on a related theme to fulfill the thesis requirement.

The following procedures are to govern the preparation and defense of the thesis:

1. Copies of the thesis in the form in which the candidate's thesis advisor and the candidate expect it to be defended shall be made available to all members of the thesis committee, and placed in the departmental office, at least 4 weeks prior to the date of the oral defense.
2. An announcement of the place and time of the oral defense shall be presented to the Office of Graduate Studies and posted around the department at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the oral defense.

Non-Thesis M.A.

1. Course requirements: 12 courses

- 5 courses out of the total 12 must be drawn from the 6 core courses listed above.
 - 7 additional courses should be drawn from the list of additional courses (other courses may qualify).
 - Students will complete a paper of publishable quality and receive one course credit.
2. This option constitutes a terminal M.A. so these students will not be eligible for admission to a doctoral program.

Language requirement

One foreign language is required for the Master of Arts degree. This may be fulfilled by (1) having completed four years of one language in high school, (2) having at least 12 semester hours of a language, with an overall GPA of at least 3.0, while earning the bachelor's degree, or (3) by passing the reading knowledge examination offered by the FSU Modern Languages Department. If a person elects to satisfy the requirement by having completed four years of a language in high school, then they must provide transcripts with proof of this to the HPS office. These must be four years of the same language. If a person elects to take the reading knowledge exam they can contact the Mary LaPeour at (850) 644-2606 for help getting enrolled to take the exam. This exam must be taken at least during the semester before graduation and students should try to enroll for the exam by the beginning of their final semester. Grading for the exam will be explained by Ms. LaPeour.

Graduate teaching

The program recommends that M.A. students whose ultimate goal is to teach enroll in the appropriate Teaching Methods course (Teaching Philosophy, Teaching College History (HIS 6941), or Teaching Religion). Each of the home departments requires such a course for those M.A. students serving as teaching assistants.

University-wide requirements

Students should consult the current edition of the Florida State University *General Bulletin (Graduate Edition)* to ascertain additional university-wide requirements.

Ph.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS

The HPS Program does not currently offer a Ph.D. Degree. However, we maintain strong links to the home departments (History, Philosophy, and Religion), and we will guide students in their preparation to study for a Ph.D. in one of the home departments.

HPS candidates for the Ph.D. fall into three categories:

- (i) History
- (ii) Religion
- (iii) Philosophy

HISTORY Ph.D.

To pursue the Ph.D. in History at FSU, HPS MA students should complete the HPS requirements including a thesis. In addition, students will need to complete additional requirements as stipulated by the Department of History:

- I. HIS 6059, *Historical Methods*
- II. HIS 6934, *Approaches to History*
- III. 2 Seminars or Colloquia, 1 in Area of Specialization (History of Science core courses included)
- IV. Minor Field: 8 hours (i.e. 2 graduate level courses)
- V. Thesis

RELIGION Ph.D.

To pursue the Ph.D. in Religion at FSU, HPS MA students should complete the HPS requirements. In addition, students will need to complete additional requirements as stipulated by the Department of Religion:

- I. REL5035, *Theory and Method in the Study of Religion*
- II. Area of Specialization (students will specialize in one of the four areas below):
 - a. American Religious History: 4 courses in ARH
 - b. Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy: Courses with 3 different REP Faculty
 - c. Religions of Asia: 6 courses in Religions of Asia
 - d. Religions of Western Antiquity: additional language requirements
- III. Thesis (recommended)

PHILOSOPHY Ph.D.

To pursue the Ph.D. in Philosophy at FSU, HPS MA students should complete the HPS requirements. In addition, students will need to complete additional requirements as stipulated by the Department of Philosophy:

To gain this exemption they must meet the following requirements while pursuing their M.A. in H.P.S.:

A. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0, with no outstanding incompletes at the time of receiving their M.A. in H.P.S.

B. Pass Modern Logic I (PHI 5135) with a grade of “B-” or better. (PHI 3130 or an equivalent course in symbolic logic is a prerequisite.) Students may retake the course only once (under tutorial PHI 5998). Failure to achieve a “B-” on the second attempt constitutes grounds for denial of the philosophy M.A. exemption.

C. Pass the two philosophy core courses

I. PHI 5665, Core Course in Ethics

II. PHI 5555, Core Course in Metaphysics & Epistemology

with a grade of “B” or better. Students may retake either of these courses only once (under tutorial PHI 5998). Failure to achieve a “B” in either course on the second attempt constitutes grounds for denial of the philosophy M.A. exemption.

D. Pass at least one seminar in contemporary metaphysics/philosophy of mind/epistemology.

E. Write a thesis to meet part of their H.P.S. M.A. requirement, and make this thesis available to the F.S.U. philosophy Ph.D. program admissions committee for their approval as satisfying the philosophy M.A. exemption requirement. **Or** take an M.A. examination in H.P.S. under a committee that includes two members of the F.S.U. philosophy department who approve the performance on the examination as satisfying the philosophy M.A. exemption requirement.

Students entering the F.S.U. philosophy Ph.D. program with an M.A. in H.P.S. from F.S.U. are exempted from the breadth (but take note of D above) and history requirements (3.2 D&E in the F.S.U. philosophy program graduate handbook).

Note: Students who plan to continue for a Ph.D. at FSU should consult with the Graduate Handbook in the appropriate home department (History, Religion, or Philosophy).