Master of Arts in Philosophy

The department of philosophy at the University of Denver offers an MA in philosophy, but only when done through the university’s flexible dual-degree program in conjunction with an MA in another approved discipline. The philosophy faculty places a strong emphasis on research and personal interaction with students. Our program is designed to meet the needs of two kinds of students — those wishing to prepare for doctoral work in philosophy and those seeking an individualized course of study with a more interdisciplinary focus. Areas of concentration include the history of Western thought, interpretive and critical theory, practical philosophy, meta-philosophy, and studies in creative and critical reasoning about human nature and values.

Proposal Process for Flexible Dual-Degree Program in Philosophy

After formal admission into both programs, the dean, chair, or director of each degree program and both program advisors, must carefully compare the requirements for each program and approve the proposal. The student must then submit a copy of the original requirements for each degree (printout from the unit Web site or copy from the student handbook is acceptable), and the flexible dual-degree proposal to the Office of Graduate Education. The philosophy department will provide a coursework template for the student to include with his or her proposal. The student then submits the documents listed above to the Office of Graduate Education, which reviews and decides on the proposals.

Master of Arts in Philosophy

Degree and GPA Requirements

• Bachelors degree: All graduate applicants must hold an earned baccalaureate from a regionally accredited college or university or the recognized equivalent from an international institution.
• Grade point average: The minimum undergraduate GPA for admission consideration for graduate study at the University of Denver is a cumulative 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the last 60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits (approximately two years of work) for the baccalaureate degree. An earned master’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution supersedes the minimum standards for the baccalaureate. For applicants with graduate coursework but who have not earned a master’s degree or higher, the GPA from the graduate work may be used to meet the requirement. The minimum GPA is a cumulative 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all graduate coursework undertaken.
• Program GPA requirement: The minimum undergraduate GPA for admission consideration for this program is a cumulative 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Prerequisites:

• An undergraduate degree in philosophy is desirable, but talented students from other areas will be considered for admission. Students must already have been accepted and matriculated into the master’s degree program in another approved DU master’s program

Standardized Test Scores

• The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. Scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency by the deadline. The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842.

Other Requirements

• All students should apply after matriculation into their first MA program at DU, but must matriculate into the Philosophy program no later than the first available term following fifty percent (50%) course work completion of the first program. To propose a flexible dual-degree, the student must seek the counsel of an adviser in the philosophy department.

English Language Proficiency Test Score Requirements

The minimum TOEFL/IELTS/CAE test score requirements for this degree program are:

• Minimum TOEFL Score (Internet-based test): 80
• Minimum TOEFL Score (Paper-based test): 550
• Minimum IELTS Score: 6.5
• Minimum CAE Score: 169

English Conditional Admission: No, this program does not offer English Conditional Admission.
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Degree Requirements

Coursework Requirements
45 quarter hours in philosophy (students may propose to have this amount reduced by a maximum of 10 quarter hours under appropriate circumstances as specified by the flexible dual-degree guidelines). Because philosophy is part of a flexible dual degree program, these hours are required in addition to the required hours in another approved discipline. Courses graded below a C– cannot be counted for a flexible dual degree.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3XXX, 4XXX, or 5XXX courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
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Minimum number of credits required for the degree: 45

Non-Coursework Requirements
- A comprehensive exam over the history of Western philosophy
- A portfolio paper approved by a committee of three department faculty
- An oral defense covering both the comprehensive exam on the history of Western philosophy and the portfolio paper