Xavier University

Department of Philosophy

Guide for

Philosophy

Majors and Minors

2021-2022

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Why Study Philosophy?

Philosophy attempts to discover the most fundamental truths and principles, in order to take responsibility for one’s own beliefs and achieve an integral understanding of oneself and the world. The philosophical project has played a crucial role in the development of human culture and science, and for many individuals it is an essential part of their lives.

Philosophy majors are often asked, “What will you do with *that*?” In fact,

philosophy develops skills that are useful in any professional career, including the ability to comprehend complex arguments and to write and speak clearly and effectively. Philosophy majors typically earn good salaries (see [http://www.payscale.com/2008-best-colleges/degrees.asp).](http://www.payscale.com/2008-best-colleges/degrees.asp)) But in addition to its practical benefits, the study of philosophy is intrinsically worthwhile and interesting.

In recent years, Xavier philosophy graduates have gone on to graduate programs in philosophy, law school, business, scientific research, and seminary.

Philosophy at Xavier

Since the sixteenth century, philosophy has been considered the crowning study in the Jesuit program of education. Until the mid-twentieth century, departments of philosophy in Jesuit universities were primarily Thomistic. Since then, they have broadened their scope and have become more historically oriented, in contrast to most American philosophy departments, which generally concentrate on English-language analytic philosophy (where the emphasis is on logical analysis of contemporary concepts and arguments).

Today at Xavier University, the philosophy department features a historically based, diverse faculty and a wide range of courses. The department plays an important role in the university core; all undergraduates must take Ethics as an Introduction to Philosophy (which is also one of the elements in the Ethics/Religion and Society component of the core) and Philosophical Perspectives. Psychology, Occupational Therapy, and Honors A.B. students have further philosophy requirements.

In 1994, the Philosophy Department adopted a mission statement that reads in

part:

[Our mission is] to educate [Xavier] students in the great ideas and movements of the history of Western Philosophy in order that they might become creative, critical and active participants in the world in which they live. The mission recognizes that introducing undergraduates to the discipline of philosophy … requires that Philosophy professors’ teaching … engage their students in the study of the fundamental questions which encompass the whole of human life and knowledge, of nature and God. … students on completing our core or major programs should be capable of interpreting great philosophical texts in such a way as to demonstrate critical awareness of implicit assumptions and opposite views, to analyze the meaning of texts and to articulate their own views precisely and succinctly. Majors and minors should have a good knowledge of one or more historical periods and should have some systematic knowledge of ethics, metaphysics and theory of knowledge.

In 2011, the department adopted a set of learning outcomes for the major program. Upon graduation, our majors should be able to:

•interpret great philosophical texts, demonstrating critical awareness of the fundamental principles in those texts

•articulate their own views on philosophical questions clearly and precisely

•demonstrate some synoptic knowledge of one or more periods in the history of philosophy

•write a well-organized philosophical research paper of at least 20 pages, incorporating

careful study of primary and secondary texts

•explain, defend and discuss the conclusions of their research orally

The Faculty

Xavier’s philosophy faculty specialize in a wide range of historical periods, thinkers, and issues. We invite you to discuss your interests with us, whether or not you are currently taking a class from us.

Michelle Brady (Ph.D., Emory University), Associate Professor and Chair; Aristotle, Locke, ethics, political philosophy; Hinkle 238, 745-2036, [brady@xavier.edu](mailto:brady@xavier.edu)

Timothy Brownlee (Ph.D., Boston University), Assistant Professor; German Idealism, political philosophy,

applied ethics; Hinkle 228, 745-3697, [brownleet@xavier.edu](mailto:brownleet@xavier.edu)

E. Paul Colella (Ph.D., Fordham University), Professor; Director of Philosophy, Politics and the Public Honors Program and the Rome program; Italian philosophy, American philosophy, Freud, Marx, political philosophy; Hinkle 210, 745-3629, [colella@xavier.edu](mailto:colella@xavier.edu)

Alexis Dianda (Ph.D., The New School for Social Research) Assistant Professor; American Philosophy, Pragmatism, 19th &20th Century Continental Thought, Ethics; Hinkle 202, 745-2040, diandaa@xavier.edu

Daniel Dwyer (Ph.D., Catholic University of America), Associate Professor; Husserl, phenomenology, contemporary continental philosophy; Hinkle 220 745-3035, [dwyerd@xavier.edu](mailto:dwyerd@xavier.edu)

Steven Frankel (Ph.D., University of Chicago), Professor; director of programs in Paris and Jerusalem; Spinoza, modern philosophy, political philosophy; Hinkle 203, 745-3668, [frankel@xavier.edu](mailto:frankel@xavier.edu)

Gabriel Gottlieb (Ph.D., New School for Social Research), Assistant Professor; German Idealism, philosophy of mind, political philosophy; Hinkle 224, 745-2017, [gottliebg@xavier.edu](mailto:gottliebg@xavier.edu) *(on leave Fall 2018)*

Richard Polt (Ph.D., University of Chicago), Professor; Heidegger, German philosophy, Greek philosophy; [polt@xavier.edu](mailto:polt@xavier.edu)

Timothy Quinn (Ph.D., Catholic University of America), Professor; Kant, Aristotle, 17th and 18th century philosophy, metaphysics, aesthetics; Hinkle 204, 745-2020, [quinnt@xavier.edu](mailto:quinnt@xavier.edu)

Michael Sweeney (Ph.D., Catholic University of America), Professor; St. Thomas Aquinas, medieval

Christian, Jewish, and Islamic philosophy; Hinkle 205, 745-2035, [sweeney@xavier.edu](mailto:sweeney@xavier.edu)

Aaron Szymkowiak (Ph.D., Boston University), Associate Professor, major advisor; Kant, the Scottish

Enlightenment, political philosophy, ethics; Hinkle 222, 745-3967, [szymkowiak@xavier.edu](mailto:szymkowiak@xavier.edu)

Eleni Tsalla (Ph.D., University of South Florida), Associate Professor, major advisor; ancient, Hellenistic, and medieval philosophy; Hinkle 232, 745-3479, [tsallae@xavier.edu](mailto:tsallae@xavier.edu)

James Wood (Ph.D., Boston University), Assistant Professor; Plato, ancient philosophy; Hinkle 225, 745-4955, [woodj3@xavier.edu](mailto:woodj3@xavier.edu)

***Teaching Professor***

*Evan Strevell (M.A., Duquesne University); Aristotle, ancient philosophy; Hinkle 207, 745-4955,* [*strevelle@xavier.edu*](mailto:strevelle@xavier.edu)

***Besl Chair***

Bethany Henning (Ph.D., Southern Illinois University – Carbondale); American philosophy, aesthetics; Hinkle 227, 745-4268; [henningb1@xavier.edu](file:///C:\Users\osbornj1\AppData\Local\Temp\henningb1@xavier.edu)

***Visiting Faculty***

Peter Moore (Ph. D University of Kentucky; Plato, ancient philosophy), moorep14@xavier.edu

Adam Konopka (Ph.D. Fordham; environmental philosophy),

Kelly Swope (Ph.D. Vanderbilt; 19th c. philosophy), swopek2@xavier.edu

The Philosophy Major

The philosophy major includes 30 credit hours, as follows:

9 hours (3 courses) of foundational work:

**PHIL 100 Ethics as Introduction to Philosophy** (3 hours)

**PHIL 200 Philosophical Perspectives** (3 hours)

**PHIL 340 Metaphysics** (3 hours, limited to majors and minors)

9 hours (3 courses) of History of Philosophy surveys:

**PHIL 301 Ancient Philosophy**

and

**PHIL 302 Medieval Christian Philosophy**

or **PHIL 309 Medieval Islamic Philosophy**

or **PHIL 363 Medieval Political Philosophy**

and

**PHIL 304 Early Modern Philosophy**

12 hours of major electives (4 courses) chosen from:

**PHIL 300-397**

Additional Requirements:

At least one course numbered 300-397 must be a **seminar**, which may be restricted to majors, minors, and honors students.

A 2.000 cumulative average must be attained for all PHIL courses. A minimum grade of C is required in PHIL 398.

The chair can approve substitutions for all the above requirements under special circumstances (e.g. for transfer students, or for students who have completed part of the major under the old system)

After you have taken the introductory philosophy courses (100 and 200), it makes sense to take the History of Philosophy survey courses listed above, as well as other survey courses that are not required but are offered as electives. These courses provide helpful overviews that will serve you well as you take more specialized electives that focus on one thinker or one topic. It will not always be feasible to take these courses in historical order.

**Metaphysics** is a course required of all majors and minors. It is normally offered in the spring, and is usually taken by students in their sophomore or (preferably) junior year. It typically includes a study of significant ancient and modern writings devoted to raising fundamental questions concerning nature, God, life, and being. Some students have found that it is best to take this course after taking some historical surveys.

Many electives listed in the catalogue are offered only once every two years, or even less often. Students interested in a particular course should ask the professor who usually teaches it when it will be offered again.

Of particular note are the “Topics” courses. The focus of these courses varies, and each course may be taken more than once for credit if it has a different focus each time.

**384 Topics in Ancient Philosophy**

**385 Topics in Medieval Philosophy**

**386 Topics in Modern Philosophy**

**387 Topics in Contemporary Philosophy**

**389 Topics in Ethics**

**390 Topics in Political Philosophy**

**392 Topics in Metaphysics**

**396 Topics in Theory of Knowledge**

In choosing which language to study at Xavier, keep in mind that ancient Greek, Latin, French, and German are particularly useful to students of philosophy. Especially if you are considering graduate studies in philosophy, the department urges the study of one of these languages beyond the Xavier core requirement.

Block Schedule

FIRST YEAR:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fall Semester | Hrs. | Spring Semester |  |
| First Year Seminar (CORE 100) | 3 | Theological Foundations (THEO 111) | 3 |
| Second Language 1 | 3 | Second Language 2 | 3 |
| Composition or Rhetoric (ENGL 100/115) | 3 | Literature and Moral Imagination (ENGL 205) | 3 |
| Philosophy 100 | 3 | Scientific Perspectives Elective | 3 |
| Creative Perspectives Elective | 3 | Oral Communications Elective | 3 |
| CORE 101 | 0 | CORE 102 | 0 |
| Total | 15 | Total | 15 |

SECOND YEAR:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fall Semester | Hrs. | Spring Semester |  |
| Philosophy 200 | 3 | History of Philosophy | 3 |
| Mathematical Perspectives Elective | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| Historical | 3 | Social Science Elective | 3 |
| Natural Science Elective | 3 | Theological Perspectives Elective | 3 |
| General Elective | 3 | Quantitative Reasoning Elective | 3 |
| Total | 15 | Total | 15 |

THIRD YEAR:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fall Semester | Hrs. | Spring Semester |  |
| History of Philosophy | 3 | History of Philosophy | 3 |
| Philosophy Elective | 3 | Philosophy 340 Metaphysics | 3 |
| Philosophy Elective | 3 | Philosophy Elective | 3 |
| ERS Elective | 3 | Diversity Curriculum Requirement | 3 |
| General Elective | 3 | Humanities Elective | 3 |
| Total | 15 | Total | 15 |

FOURTH YEAR:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fall Semester | Hrs. | Spring Semester |  |
| Philosophy Elective | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| Humanities Elective | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| General Elective | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| General Elective | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| General Elective | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| Total | 15 | Total | 15 |

Departmental Honors Track

The departmental honors track enables students who are so inclined to prepare themselves better for graduate study in philosophy, or to pursue a more challenging undergraduate course of study in philosophy. Students choosing departmental honors compose a senior thesis while working under the direction of one of our faculty members. The senior thesis project culminates in an oral thesis defense.

Mentoring Program

Philosophy majors have the option of finding a mentor in the department, in addition to their official academic advisor. Your mentor will often be the professor who taught your Ethics or Philosophical Perspectives course.

The role of a mentor is to observe and discuss your development by reading some of your work for your various courses and speaking with you about the progress

of your own philosophical views. Your mentor should help to prepare you to complete the major successfully and work toward a successful career after Xavier.

Mentors and students should meet at least once a semester.

You may wish to discuss your upcoming course selections with your mentor, but

the mentor’s role is not to handle the details of your scheduling or keep track of your graduation requirements; that is the job of your academic advisor.

Four-Year Enrichment Plan for Majors

The department recommends that students participate in intellectual and pre- professional activities as follows. Advisors and mentors will review these opportunities with students.

Philosophical lectures

Every year

• Thomasfest lecture (spring semester)

• Oppenheim lecture on American philosophy (if offered)

• Other lectures by visiting or Xavier faculty (will be announced by e-mail), including the Ethics/Religion & Society lectures:

<http://www.xavier.edu/ers/Lecture-Series.cfm>

Philosophy in Film series

Philosophically provocative films followed by a discussion led by a professor, with pizza and refreshments (several times per term)

Departmental symposiums (if offered)

These events feature open discussion of a philosophical question, with pizza and refreshments. We may also tell you about our courses for next semester.

Campus and city cultural activities

Visit the MyXU portal and read the *Newswire* to find out about campus events such as plays, musical performances, lectures, events at the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue, etc. The area offers many more opportunities for cultural enrichment, such as the Cincinnati Art Museum, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, and Cincinnati Symphony. A guide to local arts can be found at [http://theartswave.org.](http://theartswave.org/)

Career Development Office <http://www.xavier.edu/career/>CLC 530

Get to know the Career Development Office for services such as:

• resume workshop

• library of career resources

• mentoring program

• career fair

• mock interviews

• online job board

• on-campus recruiting

Consider presenting your research

Research can be presented publicly at Xavier’s Celebration of Undergraduate Research, at undergraduate philosophy conferences (announcements are shared by e- mail and posted in the niche on the second floor of Hinkle) or at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Sophomore year

Investigate study abroad and service learning semesters

Take Logic this year if possible

Look into internships for the summer before your junior year

Junior year

Tutoring

The Learning Assistance Center may be hiring philosophy tutors. If you have been getting strong grades in your philosophy classes and have a good overall GPA, consider getting valuable teaching experience and helping others by applying to serve as a tutor.

Complete specific courses required for the major

Metaphysics is normally offered during the spring. It is best to take them no later than your junior year.

One course in the history of philosophy sequence (Ancient Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Early Modern Philosophy) will be offered each semester, on a rotating basis. This means each course is offered every three semesters. If possible, complete at least two of these by the end of your junior year.

Thesis

Begin thinking about a project that might work as your senior thesis next year (often it is an expansion of a term paper). If you are invited by seniors, we encourage you to attend their one-hour thesis defense at the end of the academic year.

Consider graduate school

See p. 16 for details.

Make use of the Career Development Office

Research careers that are appropriate for liberal arts majors and seek an internship for the summer before your senior year. This kind of experience is highly valued by employers.

Consider collaborative research with a professor

Some majors help professors, particularly over the summer, to research a philosophical topic. You can ask professors who know you well whether this is possible.

Senior year

Prepare for graduate school if you are considering attending

Take the GRE exam and research possible schools. See p. 16 for details.

Work with the Career Development Office

Make full use of this resource, beginning early in the Fall semester.

Senior Year Requirements for the Honors Track

Our honors requirements are designed as the culmination of your undergraduate study of philosophy, and as an introduction to the kind of research that is expected in graduate school.

• Thesis Review: Philosophy 398-399. Senior PPP majors may also enroll in these courses. Philosophy 398 (1 credit hour, minimum grade of C required) is typically completed in the fall semester; you will meet with your advisor to discuss the stages of thesis writing, research techniques, and principles of academic writing. You will also start to write your thesis. Philosophy 399 (2 credit hours) is typically completed in the spring and involves finishing the thesis and taking the oral examination.

• Senior thesis (20-40 pages). You will work with a committee of one thesis director and at least two other readers to complete a thesis that carefully considers both primary and secondary literature on a philosophical topic. Usually the thesis is an expansion of a paper you have written for a course, and usually the professor who taught that course is your director.

• Oral examination. You will meet with your committee in the week after finals to present a 5-10-minute summary of your thesis, to be followed by about 45 minutes of questions and answers. Other students, friends, and family may attend if you like.

• Senior exit survey and interview: the department wants to learn from your experiences as philosophy majors. Please plan on contributing to this important form of assessment

at the end of your senior year.

The Philosophy Minor

The philosophy minor includes the following courses:

**100 Ethics as an Introduction to Philosophy**

(technically not part of the minor but part of the E/RS sequence)

**200 Philosophical Perspectives**

**340 Metaphysics (limited to majors and minors) Four electives** (numbered 300+)

At least one of your four electives must be a **seminar**. Seminars are smaller and more demanding courses restricted to majors, minors, and honors students.

At least one of your four electives must be a **history of philosophy** survey course from the following list. PPP majors who are minoring in philosophy may count Phil.

338, Enlightenment and Revolution, or Phil. 339, Revolution and its Aftermath, as their history of philosophy requirement. Other substitutions may be made in order

to accommodate your needs, but they should be discussed with the chair in advance.

300 Origins of Philosophy

301 Ancient Philosophy

302 Medieval Christian Philosophy

303 Hellenistic Philosophy

304 Early Modern Philosophy

305 Contemporary Philosophy

306 20th Century Continental Philosophy

307 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

308 Late Modern Philosophy

309 Medieval Islamic & Jewish Philosophy

354 Classical American Philosophy

362 Ancient Political Philosophy

363 Medieval Political Philosophy

364 Modern Political Philosophy

A 2.0 cumulative average must be attained in your philosophy courses.

The Political Thought Minor

The minor in Political Thought is an opportunity for students to pursue an interest in issues and thinkers in political theory. The minor emphasizes landmark texts that raise fundamental questions about the nature and purpose of politics. Such questions may include: What is a political community? What is the best form of government? What is the philosophical basis of the American political system? What legitimates a regime or a body of law? What is the essence of justice? What are the rights and responsibilities of a citizen? What is a revolution and when is it justified? What are the proper relations between politics and ethics, and politics and religion?

Philosophy majors may choose to complete a political thought minor in combination with their major, but at least one of their courses for the minor must be

taken from the Political Science department.

18 hours of coursework are to be selected from the courses below. A 2.0 cumulative average must be attained in these courses.

Philosophy courses

338 Enlightenment and Revolution

339 Revolution and its Aftermath

359 Philosophy and Slavery

360 Social Contract Theory

362 Ancient Political Philosophy

363 Medieval Political Philosophy

364 Modern Political Philosophy

372 John Locke

374 Hobbes

382 John Stuart Mill

390 Topics in Political Philosophy

397 Paris Seminar in Political Theory

Political Science courses

301 Political Philosophy

302 Liberalism and its Critics

308 Rousseau and the Good Life

347 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

350 Political Theory and the American Regime

363 Lincoln and the Conditions of Freedom

415 Paris Seminar in Political Theory

Other courses may count toward the minor if the student gains approval from the chairs of both the Philosophy Department and the Political Science Department. Ordinarily such courses will be offered by these two departments, but courses offered by other departments will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Resources and Events for Students

The current chair of the department is Michelle Brady (Hinkle 238, 745-2036, brady@xavier.edu). You are always welcome to visit. Flyers about graduate programs in philosophy are posted outside the chair’s office.

See page 8 for information about our mentoring program.

There are four departmental major advisors: Dr. Dianda, Dr. Gottlieb, Dr. Strevell, and Dr. Wood. *You must see your Philosophy advisor before registering for classes, or your registration will be blocked. This rule also applies to students with double majors.*

Jodi Osborn (Hinkle 236, 745-3821, osbornj1@xavier.edu) is the administrative assistant for the Philosophy and English Departments. She can help you with many issues.

We encourage you to check out the bulletin boards on the second floor of Hinkle Hall Here you will find information about faculty and students, and notices about undergraduate conferences and calls for papers.

Consider working as a tutor at the Learning Assistance Center; this is a fine opportunity to understand philosophy from the teacher’s perspective.

We encourage our students to get to know each other and the faculty outside classes, in events such as the following. You will be notified about them by e-mail.

• Symposiums on philosophical questions

• Pizza with professors

• Philosophy in Film series: a movie, pizza, and discussion; open to all students

• Reading groups

• Lectures by Xavier faculty or visiting scholars, including the department’s Thomasfest

lecture, which has been held annually for over 50 years, and its new Oppenheim lecture on American philosophy.

See pages 9-10 for further recommended activities.

Careers for Philosophy Students

In addition to pursuing graduate studies in philosophy and entering academia, philosophy majors and minors gain verbal and conceptual abilities that serve them well in a variety of pursuits. Businesses often hire humanities majors for positions that require thought and communication. Philosophy students’ experience in argumentation and interpretation serves them well in law as well as in other professional careers.

Recent Xavier philosophy majors and minors have entered the following fields: Graduate school in philosophy

Including: University of Buffalo (SUNY), Catholic University of America, Fordham

University, Georgia State University, Marquette University, Boston College, Boston University, Duquesne University, Johns Hopkins University, University of South Florida

Law school (University of Cincinnati, Georgetown, Yale)

Chicago Stock Exchange

Medical school

Catholic seminary

Scientific research Textbook publishing Special education

We encourage you to consult with professors about your career ideas and to make full use of the Career Development Office (Conaton Learning Commons Room 530, 745-

3141, [www.xavier.edu/career).](http://www.xavier.edu/career)) The Career Development Office provides many services

including resumé workshops, eRecruiting, and counseling. Do not wait until your last semester at Xavier to make use of this center; take advantage of its offerings every year, and look for employment or further studies early in the fall semester of your senior year.

Graduate Studies in Philosophy

If you love philosophy and want to pursue it further, you should consider graduate study. Such study is worthwhile in itself; it is also the necessary preparation for a career as a professor of philosophy at a college or university. Note that given the tight academic job market, a Ph.D. does not guarantee that you will have an academic career. You can investigate the current job market at [http://philjobs.org.](http://philjobs.org/)

Graduate schools will, of course, look closely at your grade point average, particularly in your philosophy courses. Your score on the GRE (see below) is the other major factor. Schools may also be interested in your language ability (see page 7). During your senior year, you will need to take concrete steps to identify and apply to graduate programs.

Steps in applying to graduate school

•Practice seriously for the Graduate Record Examination, a standardized test required by most graduate departments ([http://www.ets.org/gre).](http://www.ets.org/gre)) Take the GRE sometime in the fall of your senior year. Your GRE score will often be the single most important factor in determining whether you are accepted and what kind of financial support you will receive.

•Identify five or so schools that match your interests. Choose a mix of selective and less selective schools. Consider M.A. programs as well as Ph.D. programs. M.A. programs are normally easier to get into, but may offer less or no funding.

•Familiarize yourself with the school’s application procedures and draw up a schedule so that you don’t miss any deadlines. Usually final deadlines are in January.

•As soon as you can, ask professors who know your work to write letters of recommendation.

•Choose a good paper you’ve written and polish it for use as a writing sample. Ask the professor for whom you originally wrote the paper for advice on making it as excellent as possible.

• Also, pay close attention to the cover letter and personal statement that you may be asked to submit as part of your application. Again, ask professors for feedback.

• Let graduate schools know about things that may help you stand out, such as your knowledge of foreign languages, awards received, participation in conferences, or tutoring experience.

•Consider visiting some campuses. This will probably not increase your chances of admission, but it will give you a better idea of whether you want to attend.

Some resources

•The American Philosophical Association: [www.apaonline.org](http://www.apaonline.org/)

Visit this site to learn about academic philosophers and see statistics about jobs available in philosophy, number of job seekers per job, etc.

•The Graduate Record Examination (GRE): [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)

•American Philosophical Association *Guide to Graduate Programs in Philosophy*, 2013 edition: available as a PDF from Dr. Polt. This document includes valuable information on all North American doctoral and master’s programs in philosophy, such as the amount of time typically required to complete the program and the professional employment of graduates. It does not include information on the selectivity of the programs; such information was last available in the 2004 edition of this guide, and is indicated in our list of suggested programs (see next page).

•Information from various graduate programs is posted on the bulletin board outside the chair’s office (Hinkle 238).

•The Philosophical Gourmet Report: [www.philosophicalgourmet.com](http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/)

An influential but controversial set of opinions about the “top” graduate programs, with emphasis on analytic philosophy. Going to a “top” school does not guarantee that you will get a good graduate education, but it does make it more likely that you will be interviewed for a job once you have a Ph.D.

•The Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy offers its own advice on looking for a graduate program, particularly for those interested in recent continental European philosophy: <http://www.spep.org/resources/program-rankings/>

Sources of funding

If a graduate school accepts you, you may be offered funding, often with the expectation that you will work as a teaching assistant. Other sources of funding include fellowships offered by various organizations. A convenient set of links to such sources can be found here: [www.grad.washington.edu/students/fa/calendar.shtml](http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/fa/calendar.shtml)

Some suggested programs

Here are some departments that Xavier students might find congenial and interesting, usually because they focus on the history of philosophy and their general approach has similarities to Xavier’s. It’s worth checking the *Guide to Graduate Programs* and departmental Web sites for further information; most have online application forms. Programs are Ph.D. programs unless otherwise indicated. M.A. programs are usually easier to get into, but often come with less financial aid. They can be a good stepping- stone to Ph.D. programs if you choose to continue your studies.

The *selectivity* numbers below represent the ratio of new students admitted per year to applications received, according to the 2004 APA *Guide to Graduate Programs*. Selectivity may have changed somewhat over the last decade.

Boston College: continental, medieval, social and political philosophy, philosophy of science. Xavier faculty member who has taught there: Dwyer.

[www.bc.edu/philosophy](http://www.bc.edu/philosophy)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 13/148

Selectivity of M.A. program: 70/112

Boston University: history of philosophy, esp. German and Greek, plus analytic. Offers an M.A. program and a J.D./philosophy M.A. program. Xavier faculty graduates: Brownlee, Szymkowiak, Wood.

[www.bu.edu/philo/](http://www.bu.edu/philo/)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 19/156

Selectivity of M.A. program: 12/18

DePaul University (Chicago): continental philosophy, history of philosophy. las.depaul.edu/philosophy/

Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.): history of philosophy, esp. ancient, medieval and continental. Xavier faculty graduates: Blake, Dwyer, Quinn, Sweeney. Has M.A. program.

philosophy.cua.edu

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 6/13

Selectivity of M.A. program: 26/30

Duquesne (Pittsburgh): continental, history of philosophy. Xavier faculty completing his doctorate from Duquesne: Strevell.

[www.duq.edu/academics/schools/liberal-arts/academic-programs/philosophy](http://www.duq.edu/academics/schools/liberal-arts/academic-programs/philosophy)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 12/30

Selectivity of M.A. program: 13/25

Emory (Atlanta): history of philosophy, continental, postmodernism, Vico. Xavier faculty graduate: Brady.

[www.philosophy.emory.edu](http://www.philosophy.emory.edu/)

Selectivity: 15/104

Fordham (Bronx, New York): history of philosophy, continental, American. Xavier faculty graduate: Colella. [www.fordham.edu/academics/programs\_at\_fordham\_/philosophy/index.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/academics/programs_at_fordham_/philosophy/index.asp) Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 40/101

Selectivity of M.A. program: 9/17

George Washington University (Washington, D.C.): A new M.A. program (starting in

2015). History of philosophy, especially modern; ethics; cognitive science; philosophy of mind.

philosophy.columbian.gwu.edu/graduate

Georgetown (Washington, D.C.): history of philosophy, especially German philosophy, also bioethics and analytic; large faculty.

philosophy.georgetown.edu/about/

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 20/131

Selectivity of M.A. program: 5/14

Georgia State University (Atlanta): political philosophy, ancient, German, philosophy of mind. Xavier faculty graduate: Chris Dobbs. philosophy.gsu.edu

Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles): an M.A. program; ancient, medieval, continental, ethics.

bellarmine.lmu.edu/philosophy/ Selectivity: 13/30

Loyola University of Chicago: large department; history of philosophy, continental. [www.luc.edu/philosophy/](http://www.luc.edu/philosophy/)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 49/94

Selectivity of M.A. program: 16/16

Marquette University (Milwaukee): history of philosophy, especially ancient, medieval, continental.

[www.marquette.edu/phil](http://www.marquette.edu/phil)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 40/44 (recently has become more selective)

Selectivity of M.A. program: 17/18

Miami University of Ohio (Oxford, OH): continental, history, feminism. A two-year M.A. program. [www.units.muohio.edu/philosophy/grad\_program/index.shtml](http://www.units.muohio.edu/philosophy/grad_program/index.shtml) Selectivity: 15/50 (4 receive funding)

New School for Social Research (New York City): continental, political, analytic, ancient. Offers an M.A. Xavier faculty graduate: Gottlieb. [www.newschool.edu/nssr/subpage.aspx?id=9836](http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/subpage.aspx?id=9836)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 2/19

Selectivity of M.A. program: 34/65

Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL: an M.A. program; continental, analytic, philosophy of science. Several XU philosophy graduates have studied there. [www.niu.edu/phil](http://www.niu.edu/phil)

Selectivity: 30/45

Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.): ethics, continental, epistemology, ancient. [www.philosophy.northwestern.edu](http://www.philosophy.northwestern.edu/)

Penn State University (University Park, PA): continental, history of philosophy, race and gender theory, American.

philosophy.la.psu.edu

Selectivity: 10/101

Southern Illinois University (Carbondale): American, continental, history. cola.siu.edu/philosophy/

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 5/6

Selectivity of M.A. program: 10/10

University at Buffalo, SUNY (Buffalo, NY): largely analytic, but with opportunities to study history of philosophy. Has an M.A. program. Two XU graduates (Jonathan J. Sanford and James Delaney) have received Ph.D.s from Buffalo and are now professors of philosophy.

[www.philosophy.buffalo.edu](http://www.philosophy.buffalo.edu/)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 22/45

Selectivity of M.A. program: 11/13

University of Chicago philosophy department: early modern, ancient, German, continental, analytic.

philosophy.uchicago.edu

Selectivity: 38/201

University of Chicago, Committee on Social Thought: a graduate “great books” program in philosophy, literature and social science, with some emphasis on political philosophy. Xavier faculty graduates: Frankel, Polt.

socialthought.uchicago.edu

Selectivity: not available

University of Cincinnati: UC has recently begun a "4+1" program for students who would like to study an extra year of philosophy after their bachelor’s degree in order to prepare better for graduate school. The program is open only to UC and Xavier graduates. UC’s philosophy department is predominantly analytic, with particular interest in philosophy of mind and neuroscience. Contact Prof. Thomas Polger, [thomas.polger@uc.edu.](mailto:thomas.polger@uc.edu)

[www.artsci.uc.edu/departments/philosophy.html](http://www.artsci.uc.edu/departments/philosophy.html)

University of Dallas, Braniff Graduate School of Liberal Arts: a graduate core curriculum focuses on great works of philosophy, literature, and religion. After the core one can obtain a Ph.D. in philosophy, literature, or politics.

[www.udallas.edu/braniff](http://www.udallas.edu/braniff)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 7/12

Selectivity of M.A. program: 4/8

University of Kentucky (Lexington): history of philosophy; continental; metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of science; ethics and social and political philosophy. philosophy.as.uky.edu

Selectivity: not available (about 5 Ph.D. students admitted per year)

University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN): a very big department, with opportunities for studying both history of philosophy and analytic philosophy.

philosophy.nd.edu/

Selectivity: 26/244

University of Oregon (Eugene, OR): a pluralistic department, including Americanists, analysts, feminists, and continentalists.

philosophy.uoregon.edu

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 5/49

Selectivity of M.A. program: 4/19

University of South Florida (Tampa, FL): ancient, modern, continental, analytic. Xavier faculty graduate: Tsalla.

philosophy.usf.edu/

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 18/24

Selectivity of M.A. program: 0/1

University of Texas at Austin: a large department, mostly analytic but with a number of continentalists. Joint programs in philosophy and classics or philosophy and law. [www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/philosophy/](http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/philosophy/)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 45/148

Selectivity of M.A. program: 2/2

University of Toledo: An MA program featuring a good variety of professors and topics. [www.utoledo.edu/llss/philosophy/index.html](http://www.utoledo.edu/llss/philosophy/index.html)

University of Toronto: huge department; history of philosophy, continental, analytic. philosophy.utoronto.ca

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 23/110

Selectivity of M.A. program: 10/69

Vanderbilt (Nashville): continental, history of philosophy. [www.vanderbilt.edu/AnS/philosophy/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AnS/philosophy/)

Selectivity of Ph.D. program: 10/115

Selectivity of M.A. program: 1/1

Villanova (near Philadelphia): continental, ancient, history of philosophy. [www.villanova.edu/artsci/philosophy/](http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/philosophy/)

Selectivity: 8/190