

Philosophy Department PhD Roadmap (prior MA in Philosophy)

*This is a year-by-year roadmap for students entering the program **with** an MA in Philosophy. For more information, consult the [Philosophy Department Graduate Student Handbook](#).*

Year 1

- **Coursework:** 3 courses per semester.
- **Proseminar:** A non-credit, year-long course for all first year doctoral students.
- **Graduate Assistantship:** 18 hours/week with an assigned professor.

Year 2

- **Coursework:** 2 courses per semester. By the end of the Spring semester, completion of coursework (30 credits total). Must have fulfilled all distribution requirements. See [here](#) for details about the distribution requirements.
- **Reading List:** Must be approved by the end of the Fall semester. See [here](#) for detailed requirements about the Reading List.
- **Pedagogy Seminar:** A non-credit, year-long course in which one prepares to teach Fordham's core philosophy courses.
- **Teaching Assistant:** Assist a professor in teaching for the duration of the year.

Year 3

- **Language & Logic Requirements:** Must be fulfilled before passing the Oral Examination. See [here](#) for details on the language and logic requirements.
- **Reading List Paper:** Written in accordance with one's Reading List. Must be submitted no later than one month before the date of one's Oral Examination.
- **Oral Examination:** Must be passed within a year of the Reading List's approval, i.e., the end of the Fall semester. See [here](#) for details on the Oral Examination and Reading List Paper.
- **Dissertation Proposal and Defense:** One is expected to defend the dissertation proposal by the end of the semester after the completion of the Oral Examination. E.g., a student who takes the Oral Examination in the Fall should plan to defend the proposal by the end of the Spring. The date must be set by October 15th for a defense in the Fall semester and by March 15th for a defense in the Spring semester. It is encouraged that students set proposal defense dates as early as possible to accommodate faculty members' schedules. See [here](#) for details on the Dissertation Proposal and Proposal Defense.
- **Teaching Fellowship:** Teach one undergraduate philosophy course per semester.

Year 4

- **Dissertation:** One is expected to work on the dissertation for the duration of this year.
- **Professional Writing Seminar:** Students who are ABD (all but dissertation) are encouraged to enroll in this seminar designed to assist PhD candidates in the academic job market. This course begins in the Spring semester and continues into the Fall semester of the following year. If desired, students may repeat this course.

- **Teaching Fellowship:** Teach one undergraduate philosophy course per semester.

Year 5

- **Dissertation Defense:** A date for the dissertation must be set by October 15th for a defense to occur in the fall semester and by March 15th for a defense to occur in the spring semester. GSAS does not guarantee May graduation for dissertation defenses after April 15th. See [here](#) for details on the dissertation and dissertation defense.
- **Professional Writing Seminar:** A continuation of the seminar during the Fall semester. See description in Year 4.
- **Teaching Fellowship:** Teach one undergraduate philosophy course per semester.