Introduction

The Department offers a comprehensive program in the history and problems of philosophy, allowing for concentration in the following areas: continental European philosophy from Kant to the present, ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of science. A significant feature of the program is the extensive and diverse range of courses available to graduate students every semester.

The department offers an M.A. program and a Ph.D. program. The Graduate Director and the Graduate Committee administer these programs.
First Year at a Glance
A quick guide to your first year in the PhD program

What should you do before school starts?

• **Look over the courses offered.** You can find these in the “Course Information and Schedule” under “Academics and Courses” on your Agora Portal. Graduate courses are those that are Level 500 or above. Classes that meet 3 times a week are 50 minutes, classes that meet 2 times a week are 75 minutes, and courses that meet once a week are generally 100 minutes.

• **Look over the Master’s Comprehensives Reading List** to see which areas you will need to spend more time mastering. Think about which courses might help you supplement any areas you are less strong in.

• **Turn in your advising sheet and website info sheet to RoseMarie DeLeo.** You will find these documents in the attachments. This is how you will be assigned an academic advisor in the department and how your info page will be created on the department website.

• **Register for 3 Classes** at least two weeks before classes start to insure that your funding and financial aid are processed quickly. (see “Selecting Courses” in the Procedures and Regulations section of this handbook and “Registering for Courses” in the main body of the Handbook)

• **Register for Teaching Seminar.** Register for this along with your 3 regular courses. NOTE: This is a required course for first year PhD students.

• **Come to Campus:** As soon as you can, come to campus to get your new Eagle One ID card (instructions: [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/id/about.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/id/about.html)).

• **Stop by the Philosophy Department:** the main department is located on the third floor of the north wing of Stokes Hall. Check in with RoseMarie, and she will show you your cubicle, the department mailboxes, and how to use the photocopiers.

What will you be doing your first year in the department?

• Take 6 courses, three each semester
• Take the Teaching Seminar
• Act as a Research Assistant for 1-2 Professors (up to 20 hours per week) (See Research Assistant Section of the handbook)
• Study for and take the Masters Comprehensive Exam (See XXX)

Who should you talk to if you have any questions?

Don’t hesitate to ask even the most basic questions. There are several people who you can get in touch with as you get ready for your first year.

• RoseMarie DeLeo can usually answer questions about registering for classes or any technical problems. Even if she can’t answer your question, she usually knows who can.

• The Graduate Student Director: Father Gary Gurtler can also answer questions about courses, requirements, exams, or the program in general.

• Your Fellow Students: If you want to talk to your fellow PhD students about living in Boston, advice for choosing courses, or even coffee shop recommendations, they are all happy to help. Amelia and Vince have volunteered to be new student liaisons. You can email them with questions, and they can also direct you to other students who might share your philosophical interests or have experience that might be valuable to you.

  Amelia Wirts: ameliawirts@gmail.com
  Vince DeVendra: vinedevendra@gmail.com
THE M.A. PROGRAM

Requirements for the M.A. are as follows: 10 courses (30 credits); proficiency in one foreign language; and a one hour and fifteen minute oral comprehensive examination on a reading list in the history of philosophy. The M.A. may be taken on a full time basis or on a part time basis. Financial aid and tuition remission are not normally available for students seeking an M.A.

Course Work The department offers courses intended exclusively for graduate students (700-800-900 levels) as well as courses intended both for undergraduate and graduate students (500-699 levels). Both sorts of courses may be applied to the fulfillment of the requirement of 10 courses (30 credits). With department approval, students may also take appropriate graduate level courses in other departments of Boston College and by consortial arrangement in other schools and universities (cf. Cross Registration, under Procedures and Regulations). Students may apply for transfer credit for two (2) graduate courses taken prior to entrance to the program and not applied to another degree program, subject to department approval and the regulations of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (cf. Transfer of Credit).

Grading In each graduate course, in which a student is registered for graduate credit, the student will receive one of the following grades at the end of the semester: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, F, W, J, U, P, or I. The high passing grade of A is awarded for superior work. The passing grade of B is awarded for work that clearly is satisfactory at the graduate level. The low passing grade of C is awarded for work that is minimally acceptable at the graduate level. The failing grade of F is awarded for work that is unsatisfactory.

Students will be evaluated as making excellent, good, satisfactory, or poor progress toward completion of the degree. Any student who accumulates two (2) or more Incompletes for course work will automatically be regarded as making poor progress toward the degree. Any student who accumulates two (2) or more grades of C will also be regarded as making poor progress toward the degree. Any such student must meet immediately with the Director of the Graduate Program. Students judged to be making poor progress will be given specific directions for what they must accomplish in the next year in order to continue in the program beyond the following year. Students can be removed from the program after being evaluated as having made poor academic progress for two years. (See: Evaluation Policies & Procedures for Graduate Students.)

A student who has not completed the research or written work for a course taken in the fall or spring semester or is absent from the course examination in either semester, may, with adequate reason at the discretion of the instructor, receive a temporary grade of Incomplete (I). All such I grades will automatically be changed to F on March 1 for the fall, August 1 for the spring, and October 1 for the summer.

A J grade is recorded when the grade is deferred. A faculty member may only assign a grade of J for courses that continue beyond the normal semester period. Such courses may include Internship, Dissertation Direction, and Student Teaching.

A U grade is recorded for ungraded courses such as doctoral continuation.
Graduate students who withdraw from a course after the drop/add period (first seven days of the semester) will have a “W” recorded in the grade column of their academic record.

**Language Proficiency** The M.A. student must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language, Latin, Greek, French, or German. Proficiency may be demonstrated by receiving a grade of “B” or better in two semesters of the language at the elementary college level or one semester at the intermediate college level, in the 12-week summer language class for graduate students at Boston College, or by passing the department’s own language examination. For further information on the language exam, please consult Prof. Peter Kreeft.

**Thesis** A student may write an M.A. thesis in place of two courses (6 credits). Students writing a Master’s thesis must register for two semesters of PL801 Master’s Thesis. It is the responsibility of the student to secure a thesis supervisor and second reader and to prepare a thesis proposal; a copy of the proposal and the names of the supervisor and second reader must be presented to the Director of Graduate Studies prior to registering for PL801 Master’s Thesis.

**M.A. Comprehensive Examination** The M.A. candidate is required to take a one-hour and fifteen minute oral exam before a board of four professors. This examination is scheduled the semester in which all course work and the language requirement have been fulfilled. The examination covers selected texts from the history of philosophy (cf. the M.A. Comprehensive Reading List - Attachment 1). This examination is regularly administered in the week after the University Commencement. For good reasons a student may apply to take the examination at another time. Students sign up for the examination by completing the Master’s Comprehensive Examination Selection Sheet on line (web site http://fmwww.bc.edu/pl/grad/maselect.html) and print out and submit it to RoseMarie DeLeo. A failed examination may be retaken once and once only.

**Time Limit** The M.A. candidate is permitted five consecutive years from the date of acceptance into the program for completion of all requirements for the Master’s degree. Extensions are permitted only with the approval of the department and of the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

**Please note:** Graduate School of Arts and Sciences site links to academic university or school policies and procedures at http://www.bc.edu/schools/gsas/policies.html.

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**Important Dates from the Office of Student Services for 2013-2014**

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THE PH.D. PROGRAM

Requirements for the Ph.D. are as follows: one year of full-time residence; course work (cf. below under Course Work); proficiency in logic; proficiency in two foreign languages; preliminary comprehensive examination; doctoral comprehensive examination; dissertation; and oral defense of the dissertation. Doctoral students are generally admitted with financial aid in the form of Research Assistantships and Teaching Fellowships. Research assistants and teaching fellows receive remission of tuition for required courses. Doctoral students are expected to pursue the degree on a full time basis and to maintain satisfactory progress towards the completion of the degree. For the academic year 2013-2014, stipends for research assistants are $18,500 and stipends for teaching assistants average $19,500.

Course Work The total course work required for the Ph.D. is 16 courses (48 credits). Students entering the program with an M.A. in philosophy may be given credit for up to 6 courses (18 credits) toward this requirement, but must take a minimum of 10 courses (30 credits) in the program. Students entering the program without an M.A. earn an M.A. on their way to the Ph.D.

Grading In each graduate course, in which a student is registered for graduate credit, the student will receive one of the following grades at the end of the semester: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, F, W, J, U, P, or I. The high passing grade of A is awarded for superior work. The passing grade of B is awarded for work that clearly is satisfactory at the graduate level. The low passing grade of C is awarded for work that is minimally acceptable at the graduate level. The failing grade of F is awarded for work that is unsatisfactory.

Students will be evaluated as making excellent, good, satisfactory, or poor progress toward completion of the degree. Any student who accumulates two (2) or more Incompletes for course work will automatically be regarded as making poor progress toward the degree. Any student who accumulates two (2) or more grades of C will also be regarded as making poor progress toward the degree. Any such student must meet immediately with the Director of the Graduate Program. Students judged to be making poor progress will be given specific directions for what they must accomplish in the next year in order to continue in the program beyond the following year. Students can be removed from the program after being evaluated as having made poor academic progress for two years. (See: Evaluation Policies & Procedures for Graduate Students.)

A student who has not completed the research or written work for a course taken in the fall or spring semester or is absent from the course examination in either semester, may, with adequate reason at the discretion of the instructor, receive a temporary grade of Incomplete (I). All such I grades will automatically be changed to F on March 1 for the fall, August 1 for the spring, and October 1 for the summer.

A J grade is recorded when the grade is deferred. A faculty member may only assign a grade of J for courses that continue beyond the normal semester period. Such courses may include Internship, Dissertation Direction, and Student Teaching.

A U grade is recorded for ungraded courses such as doctoral continuation.
Graduate students who withdraw from a course after the drop/add period (first seven days of the semester) will have a “W” recorded in the grade column of their academic record.

**Research Assistantship**  Research Assistants are responsible for a total of up to 20 hours per week of service to faculty members of the department of philosophy. This responsibility begins on the first day of classes for the academic year, and ends on the last day of classes for that same academic year. Students are exempt from working over the Christmas, spring and Easter Breaks, unless by agreement with a particular faculty member his/her hours are redistributed from the expected amount during the semester so as to extend into a break period. The required 20 hours are usually divided among two and sometimes four faculty members (the specific assignments may change from the fall semester to the spring semester). Each such faculty member will have been informed by the graduate studies director or of her/his allotted hours; the student should work out a specific schedule which of them, to the degree that this is possible. Each student is to maintain a careful record of time committed each week, to each faculty member. On a monthly basis, faculty members should sign this record, whereupon the student will deliver it to the Director of Graduate Studies. Every sort of required activity should be recorded, whether it be research in the library, organizational support, or mandatory attendance at the faculty member's courses (i.e., attendance at courses the student is not already taking for credit as part of his/her own program of studies).

**Seminar in Teaching**  To provide Ph.D. students with the requisite pedagogical instruction and supervision, the department requires first-year and second-year Ph.D. students who are or will become teaching fellows to participate for four semesters in a series of training seminars. This course should be taken during the academic year before the first year of teaching and during the first year of teaching (i.e., generally the first two years of the program). These seminars deal with such issues as preparation of syllabi and exam schedules, fundamentals of the art of teaching, grading, and advising. Each student presents a sample syllabus which is then discussed by the group. The Seminar in Teaching meets six times a semester, generally on Monday afternoons. The Seminar does not count toward the doctoral requirement of 16 courses (48 credits).

**Proficiency in Logic**  The Ph.D. student must demonstrate proficiency in logic by taking PL 577 Introduction to Symbolic Logic with a grade of “B” or better, or by attaining a score of 80% or better on the Logic Proficiency Examination, or by showing evidence of comparable prior course work. PL 577 may count towards the requirement of 16 courses. (See Attachment 2)

**Language Proficiency**  The Ph.D. student must demonstrate proficiency in two foreign languages, Latin, Greek, French, or German. Proficiency may be demonstrated by receiving a grade of “B” or better in two semesters of the language at the elementary college level or one semester at the intermediate college level, in the 12-week summer language class for graduate students at Boston College, or by passing the department’s own language examination. The requirement of the first language should be fulfilled before a graduate student begins his or her third year of study at Boston College. Both language requirements must be fulfilled before a student takes the Doctoral Comprehensive Examination. With department approval, a language that is central to the candidate’s thesis may be substituted for one of the other languages. For further information on the language exam, please consult Prof. Peter Kreeft.

**Preliminary Comprehensive Examination**  The Preliminary Comprehensive Examination is the same as the M.A. Comprehensive Examination. Ph.D. students are expected to take this examination at the end of their first year in the program. Students sign up for the examination by
completing the Master’s Comprehensive Examination Selection Sheet on line (web site http://fmwww.bc.edu/pl/grad/maselect.html) and print out and submit it to RoseMarie DeLeo. A failed examination may be retaken once and once only.

For those students without an M.A. degree, after you have fulfilled all the requirements for the Master’s degree, you must apply to the Graduate School and Student Services for your Master’s degree to be registered with the university.

Teaching Fellowship Teaching Fellows are responsible for teaching one unit of Philosophy of the Person I in the Fall semester and Philosophy of the Person II in the Spring semester. The course description is currently as follows:

This course introduces students to philosophical reflection and to its history through the presentation and discussion of the writings of major thinkers from ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary periods. The course is designed to show how fundamental and enduring questions about the universe and about human beings recur in different historical contexts and from a range of approaches and methods. Emphasis is given to ethical themes, such as the nature of the human person, the foundation of human rights and corresponding responsibilities, and problems of social justice.

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination The Doctoral Comprehensive Examination is a two-hour oral examination. Students are responsible for selecting a professor to direct their dissertation and working with him/her to set up doctoral comprehensives. The dissertation direct will guide you in developing a dissertation proposal. A student also works with his/her director to choose two major philosophers and one systematic problem, and to select and work with one professor on each of these parts. The two-hour exam will be divided evenly between defending the proposal and answering questions on the authors and problem. In general, the professor you worked with in each area will ask you questions in that area, while all may ask questions about the proposal. It is the responsibility of the student to secure the cooperation of four faculty examiners and to negotiate with them the terms of reference for the examination. A Ph.D. student must complete all course requirements, and demonstrate proficiency in two languages and in logic, before taking the Doctoral Comprehensive Examination. It is the responsibility of the student to ask the Registrar to send a final transcript of grades to the department, to complete the Selections form, and to submit it for department approval, together with a suggested date and time for the examination. Ph.D. Students are expected to take the Doctoral Comprehensive Examination (Attachment 3) by November of their fourth year (third year, for students entering the program with the M.A. in hand). A failed examination may be retaken once and once only.

Dissertation The Ph.D. student is expected to complete a dissertation which embodies original and independent research and which demonstrates advanced scholarly achievement. The research must be carried out and the dissertation written under the direction of a tenure track faculty from the Philosophy Department. The student’s dissertation proposal constitutes part of the Doctoral Comprehensive Examination. The manuscript of the dissertation must be prepared according to a recognized manual of style (e.g., the MLA).

Dissertation Defense The Ph.D. student is expected to defend the dissertation in a public oral examination. This examination must be held during the academic year (September to April). Prior to the examination the dissertation must be approved by the supervisor and by a second reader. The chair of the department serves ex officio as third reader. It is the responsibility of the
student to comply with the regulations of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and with the requirements of the University Registrar, to provide the department with an abstract of the dissertation and a copy of the dissertation for distribution to faculty and graduate students no later than thirty days before the defense. After the defense, two copies of the dissertation (the original plus one copy) are to be turned in to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, along with the required forms. One copy of the dissertation should be left with the department.

**Time Limit**  All requirements for the doctorate must be completed within eight consecutive years from the beginning of doctoral studies. Extensions beyond this limit may be made only with departmental recommendation and the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

**Please note:** Graduate School of Arts and Sciences site links to academic university or school policies and procedures at [Http://www.bc.edu/schools/gsas/policies.html](http://www.bc.edu/schools/gsas/policies.html).

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<td>Week of May 19</td>
<td>Preliminary Comprehensive Examinations</td>
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Timetable for the Ph.D. Program

Year 1

Coursework
- You should take on average three courses each semester
- It may be useful to choose courses that will help you prepare for your comprehensive examination at the end of the year.
- In addition to your three courses, you must take the Teaching Seminar each semester.

Research Assistantship
- If you are funded by the department, you will be assigned to two professors each semester, for whom you may work up to ten hours per week from the beginning of the term until the beginning of exam week.

Preliminary Comprehensive Examinations (M.A. comps.)
- It is a good idea to begin studying as early in the year as possible.
- You may wish to form a study group.
- The examination takes place after commencement in May. For a serious reason, you may take the exam after it is offered, but you must arrange your board on your own.
- Generally, you must pass the exam prior to teaching in your second year.

Languages
- If you do not have either of your language requirements completed, you should begin taking them during your first year or during the summer between years one and two.

Year 2

Coursework
- You should take on average at least two courses each semester. If you came into the program with an M.A., you should finish your coursework this year.
- You must take the Teaching Seminar each semester.
- If you haven’t yet met your logic requirement, you should consider taking Symbolic Logic during this year.

Teaching Fellowship
- If you are funded by the department, you will teach one unit of Philosophy of the Person I in the Fall and one unit of Philosophy of the Person II in the Spring.

Languages
- If you haven’t finished your language requirements, think about taking your first or second language during the year or in the summer between your second and third year.

Year 3

Coursework
- You should finish your coursework this year. Most will need to take three courses each semester.

1 If you came into the program with an M.A. in philosophy, skip to Year 3, which corresponds to your Year 2, and likewise for the remainder of the years.
- Consider taking a course the paper for which may help you narrow in on a dissertation topic.
- If you have not met your logic requirement, you should consider taking Symbolic Logic this year.

Teaching
- If you are funded by the department, you will teach one unit of Philosophy of the Person I in the Fall and one unit of Philosophy of the Person II in the Spring.

Languages
- If you have not met your language requirement, you should do so this year or during the summer after.

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination
- You should begin thinking about your doctoral comps. Think about your figures and systematic area and begin talking with professors to work out reading lists.
- You should choose your dissertation advisor, who will chair your examination and question you on your dissertation prospectus.
- Think about when you wish to schedule your examination, which you may wish to take as early as November of next year and must take no later than March.

Dissertation
- You may wish to start thinking about your dissertation prospectus during the year or during the summer after. Your prospectus must be finished by the time you take your doctoral comprehensives and you must be prepared to answer questions about it.

Year 4
Teaching
- If you are funded by the department, you will teach one unit of Philosophy of the Person I in the Fall and one unit of Philosophy of the Person II in the Spring.

Logic
- If you have not yet met your logic requirement, you must either take Symbolic Logic or study for and take the department’s logic examination.
- If you take the logic examination, it should be completed prior to taking your doctoral comprehensives.

Languages
- If you have not met your language requirements, you must do so prior to taking your doctoral comprehensive examination.

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination
- Near the beginning of the year, you should finalize your reading list.
- You should schedule your examination with your professors well in advance.
- Take the exam no later than March.

Dissertation
- If you wish to have your final year free of teaching duties, you must finish all of your course work, language, and logic requirements, and pass your doctoral comprehensive examinations, which include your dissertation prospectus, no later than March 30. The Graduate Studies Committee will vote on your application by April 15.
Final Year (fourth year of four-year program, fifth year of five-year program)

Dissertation

- Nothing left to do but write!
- *Keep in mind that if you are funded by the department, there is no guarantee of adjunct work after your final year of funding, but typically, the department offers at least one course per semester to students in good standing.*
PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

Students would do well to familiarize themselves with the General Regulations of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, which are found in the Boston College Catalog. The Graduate School Office is located in Gasson 108C. The Associate Dean Candace Hetzner of the Graduate School is ready to be of assistance to graduate students.

Advisement  You will be assigned to an academic advisor over the summer so that you may see that advisor about courses for the fall as well as other issues when you arrive in September. Please fill out the attached Advisement Questionnaire form about your background, interests and goals and return it to RoseMarie DeLeo in the Philosophy Department so that we may assign you to an appropriate advisor. Should you desire a particular faculty member, please request that person on the form. We cannot guarantee you will be assigned to that person but we will do our best to match your interests with that of an advisor.

Registration  Students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences register either over the telephone or on line using Agora, the U-Dial system or the U-View Plus system. Instructions for using Agora, U-Dial and U-View Plus are found in the publications Schedule of Courses and Graduate Registration Materials. The latter includes all necessary information concerning procedures for registration, payment, deadlines, and the like. The U-View system permits graduate students to pre-register for courses. If necessary the department will approve overrides for graduate students who desire to register for courses marked “Closed.” Regular graduate student registration continues through the seventh day of classes; after that date students have to follow the procedures for late registration set forth in the Graduate Registration Materials. It is the responsibility of students to identify and correct any errors in their registrations.

Tuition Remission  Students who receive tuition remission are expected to notify the department and the graduate school immediately if they drop a course for which they have applied tuition remission. Students may take intensive summer language courses at Boston College at a reduced rate of tuition. To take advantage of this reduction, please consult RoseMarie DeLeo

Course Selection  Near-final listings of course offerings are available from the department in April (for the following fall) and November (for the following spring). Students can find full course listings in the Agora Menu by clicking “Course Information and Schedule” under Academics and Courses. Students should register for classes two weeks before classes begin to insure financial aid processing. However, students are encouraged to attend initial meetings of any number of courses in which they might be interested before making a final determination before the end of the first week of classes; graduate students generally have two weeks to change courses, but since entrance into courses after the end of the first week can be disruptive, especially in the case of once-a-week and seminar courses, students are encouraged to attend several classes before making their final selection. Other than logic and language requirements, students may choose to fulfill their coursework with any graduate level classes; there are no distribution requirements. Some students like to use their coursework to help them prepare for the Masters Comps, which doctoral students are required to take at the end of their first year. Since the Masters Comps are oriented to both to systematic problems and historical periods, those students with less experience in particular historical periods of philosophy might choose to take courses in these periods to help them prepare for comprehensive exams. While graduate
students’ course selection does not require departmental approval, it is prudent to consult with a faculty advisor before finalizing one’s selections.

**Reading and Research Courses**  Graduate students may ask faculty to offer Reading and Research Courses (PL 799) on an individual or small group basis on topics not covered in current course offerings. Such requests are more likely to elicit positive responses if they are made well in advance and if they advance the faculty member’s own research interests. The student should begin by securing the agreement of the faculty member in question, and then approach RoseMarie DeLeo, who will create a section number and an index number for the course.

**Cross Registration**  Besides the courses listed as philosophy courses, graduate students have access to a variety of other courses, such as the “UN” or Perspectives courses, and in general to courses relevant to philosophy offered in other departments, e.g., Political Science, Theology. The Consortial Arrangement makes it possible for graduate students from Boston College to take courses at Boston University, Brandeis, and Tufts. Please see the Boston College Bulletin for more information. For information on the Boston Theological Institute consortium, please see the graduate director. The necessary forms for cross registration can be picked up from the Office of Student Services in Lyons Hall.

**Transfer of Credit**  Students who have completed one full semester of graduate work may request transfer of not more than six (6) graduate transfer credits, i.e., two courses; only courses in which a student has received a grade of B or better, and which have not been applied to a prior degree, will be accepted. Credits received for courses completed more than ten years prior to a student's admission to his or her current degree program are not acceptable for transfer. Transfer of Credit forms, which are available in the department office, should be submitted to the department for approval, together with an official transcript.

**Incompletes**  All required work in any course must be completed by the date set for the course examination. A student who has not completed the research or written work for a course may, with adequate reason and at the discretion of the faculty member, receive an Incomplete (I). Incompletes are expected to be completed by the sixth week of the following semester. By the decision of the Educational Policy Committee of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, an Incomplete that is not completed by the sixth week of the following semester will be automatically changed to an F, unless the faculty member involved assigns another grade. Students with three or more F’s will be barred from registration for further courses. Delay in the completion of Incompletes may be taken as an indication that a student is not maintaining satisfactory progress in the graduate program and may jeopardize a student's financial aid and standing in the program.

**Graduation**  To graduate, a student has to sign up for graduation. Students can sign up on line through U-View.
PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Staff: The department office is staffed by Toni Ross, department administrator, and RoseMarie DeLeo, graduate program assistant with special responsibility for graduate programs. Both are ready to help students with information, experience, and sound advice. The department office is generally open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Photocopying/FAX/printing facilities: The department copying room is open during office hours, closing a little before 4:30 p.m. It houses photocopy, FAX and laser printing machines. These are intended for the use of faculty and administrative personnel. Graduate students have access to the photocopy machine for work-related purposes. Large scale copy work should be done at the B.C. Eagle Print.

Computer Facilities: Teaching Fellows have desktop computers in their offices. Other graduate students have access to public computers in the department and additional computers in the O’Neill Computing Center (where both Macintosh and IBM computers are available). Laser printing is available at either site.

LIBRARY RESOURCES:

Libraries: There are two main libraries on campus. O’Neill library houses the majority of Boston College’s holdings and has a lot of study space. Bapst library houses the art books and has a special study area reserved for graduate students. The Lonergan Center is located in Bapst library.

Boston Library Consortium: The Boston Library Consortium includes the following libraries: Boston College, Boston Public, Boston University, Brandeis, MIT, Northeastern, State Library of Massachusetts, Tufts, University of Massachusetts (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell), and Wellesley College. Students can obtain a consortium library card at the O’Neill reference desk. For User Guide and further information please consult the main reference desk in O’Neill Library.

Library Requests The department has a budget allotment for the acquisition of books and periodicals. Requests and suggestions are welcome from both faculty and students. Contact Prof. Jean-Luc Solère.

SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGE STUDY:

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences grants partial tuition remission to graduate students (Ph.D. and M.A.) taking intensive summer language programs in Latin, French, and German in the Boston College Summer Session. Funded students may also take language courses during the academic year at no cost; unfunded students may do so for the cost of one of the three credit hours per semester. For details, please consult the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Gasson 108).
**PLACEMENT SUPPORT:**

**For Ph.D. Students:** The department provides assistance to doctoral students applying for academic positions in several forms. The department’s Placement Officer for 2013-14 is Prof. Eileen Sweeney. The placement officer works with each student individually to enhance her or his applications. In addition to offering extensive information about the elements of an academic dossier, the placement officer hosts faculty panel sessions on compiling a strong dossier and interview techniques. Students also receive personal feedback on all the elements of their dossier from the placement director and other faculty. The department also conducts mock interviews, involving several faculty members, for both convention and on-campus interviews. For more information, contact Prof. Eileen Sweeney.

**For M.A. Students:** The department provides assistance to M.A. students seeking admission to Ph.D. programs. Each year the department hosts a faculty panel for M.A. students applying to doctoral programs. Drawing upon their personal experiences, each faculty member discusses elements of the application process. Faculty members also offer specific feedback on draft personal statements, selection of writing samples, etc. For more information, contact Prof. Vanessa Rumble.

**CENTERS/INSTITUTES/LECTURE SERIES:**

**The Lonergan Center** is dedicated to studies related to the work of Jesuit theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan (1904-1984). It is located on the fourth floor of Bapst Library. The Center houses a growing collection of Lonergan's published and unpublished writings as well as secondary materials and reference works.

**The Institute of Medieval Philosophy and Theology** unites the teaching and research efforts of faculty members in the Philosophy and Theology Departments who specialize in medieval philosophy and theology. The focus of the institute is the relationship between medieval philosophy and theology and contemporary philosophy and theology. The institute sponsors lectures, brown bag lunch discussions related to the study of Medieval philosophy and theology. For further information please consult Prof. Stephen Brown stephen.brown.1@bc.edu (Theology), or Professors Eileen Sweeney eileen.sweeney@bc.edu or Jean-Luc Solère jeanluc.solere.1@bc.edu (Philosophy).

**The Albert J. Fitzgibbons Lecture Series** is an endowed lecture series in the philosophy department inaugurated in spring 2008. There are approximately six lectures in the series during the academic year featuring distinguished philosophers from the U.S. and abroad.

**The Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy** (BACAP) is a consortium of colleges and universities in Boston, Manchester, NH, and Worcester, sponsoring seminars and lectures in the field of ancient philosophy. For further information please consult Prof. Gary Gurtler, S.J.

**The Philosophy Forum** sponsors sessions for the reading of papers, social events, and other activities of interest to graduate students. The group gets together every other Friday afternoon and usually one student presents a paper or work in progress to the group. The meeting is usually accompanied by a cocktail hour. Philosophy Forum also has a news group on
the internet system where students can find out about Philosophy Forum events and participate in electronic philosophical discussions.

**The Annual Graduate Student Conference** takes place in March or April, sponsored by the graduate school and philosophy department. It is completely organized by graduate students in the philosophy department. All students are encouraged to get involved in the planning and organization.

**The Graduate Student Association (GSA)** is a college wide organization which sponsors several theme parties throughout the Academic year including a Barbecue at the beginning of the year. GSA is located in Murray House (see below)

**Ph.D. Student Council and Philosophy GSA** The Ph.D. Student Council (PSC) is a group of elected representatives that exists to present the concerns and interests of the doctoral students to the Graduate Director and faculty.

This council also acts as part of the Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA), along with representatives from the M.A. program. The PGSA is primarily responsible for managing department events and distributing the funds allotted to the students of the department from the Boston College GSA. This funding goes towards the Graduate Student Conference, the Contemporary Philosophy Workshop, the Philosophy Forum, and other events and activities.

Members of the PSC also serve on the PGSA. There are six members of the PSC, one representative from each year in addition to a non-voting representative, who also acts as treasurer for the PGSA and may be from any year of the program. Elections are held at the mandatory Ph.D. student meeting during the first few weeks of each Fall term.

**The John Courtney Murray, S. J. Graduate Center** is a space exclusively for graduate students, as well as through a wide range of programming developed, implemented, and promoted specifically for and by graduate students. The center is a great place for graduate students from all departments to study, offering several private study rooms, as well as a small computer lab for graduate student use. There is also a kitchen and a lunch room, as well as a pool table, television room, and a deck with tables and chairs. Graduate students and graduate student organizations - along with BC employees, offices, and departments - are welcome to reserve various areas of the Murray Graduate Student Center as long as their purpose for gathering is graduate student related and/or includes graduate students. The Murray Center is located on Hammond Street across from Carney Hall.

**Consortial and Exchange Partners:**

**Boston Area Consortium of Graduate Schools:** Graduate students at Boston College are eligible to cross register for one course per semester at Boston University, Tufts University and Brandeis University while enrolled at Boston College. For more information contact the department graduate program director.

**Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies:** The GCWS at MIT is an inter-institutional enterprise established to advance the field of women's studies and enlarge the scope of graduate education through new models of team teaching and interdisciplinary study. Faculty
and students are drawn from six member schools: Boston College, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Northeastern University, MIT, and Tufts University. Please contact the appropriate Graduate Program Director to review department special rules and regulations.

**Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna, Austria:** Doctoral students who have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation are eligible to apply to be Junior Fellows. Fellows reside at the institute for six months and participate in lectures and seminars with junior and senior fellows at the institute.

**Paris Program:** Boston College’s Office of International Programs has set up a cooperative program with the Paris Center for Critical Studies. The program involves enrollment at the Université de Paris III - Nouvelle Sorbonne, and provides access to courses at the College Internationale de Philosophie. The program is open to graduate students as well as to undergraduate students. For further information please contact Prof. Ourida Mostefai (Romance Languages), or Abbey Berenson (Office of International Programs).

**Funding Assistance**

**Graduate Assistantships and Employment Opportunities:** There are some employment and assistanceship opportunities at Boston College for students who enter without department funding. Positions available are listed on the graduate school’s website. Visit [www.bc.edu/offices/gsc/financial/assistantships.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/gsc/financial/assistantships.html)

**The Office of Sponsored Programs** assists both faculty and graduate students in finding sources of external funding for their projects, and provides advice in the development of proposals. The Office of Sponsored Programs maintains a reference library of publications from both the public sector and the private sector listing funding sources for sponsored projects. The Office of Sponsored Programs is located at 36 College Road. For more information, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs directly.

**Travel to Scholarly Conferences:** There are funds available to assist graduate students who are delivering papers at scholarly conferences. For further information please consult the Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the website at [http://gsas.bc.edu/](http://gsas.bc.edu/), and the Graduate Student Association (GSA).

**Lonergan Fellowships:** In recent years some financial aid and tuition remission has been available to assist graduate students specializing in the thought of Bernard Lonergan. For further information please consult Prof. Patrick Byrne.

**Dissertation Fellowships:** Enrollment in the doctoral program includes a provision that each student’s final year in the program (e.g., the fourth of a four-year program or fifth of a five-year program) is fully funded and without responsibility other than concentrated work on the dissertation. In order to receive this funding, a student must have completed his/her doctoral comprehensive examination by March 30 of the year immediately prior to the year to be spent concentrating on the dissertation. The graduate studies committee is to receive the following documents by April 15, whereupon a formal vote will be taken on each student’s request: a 10-15 page prospectus for the dissertation project (ordinarily, the document used for that portion of
the doctoral comprehensive examination), a letter or email from the dissertation director, affirming the viability of the project, and a list of readers who serve on the eventual jury when the dissertation is defended. **Students should remember that a standard jury should include three members, two of whom are to be tenured or tenure track members of the Boston College department of philosophy.** The department strongly encourages the enlistment of one person from outside the university, selected with the approval of the dissertation director and graduate studies committee.

**Teaching Excellence Awards:** The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences sponsors a program of awards to recognize and reward excellent teaching on the part of graduate students. Currently the department is asked to make recommendations for four such awards in the amount of $600 each.

**SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**

**Etudes Phénoméno[nologiques** Editorial board Prof. Jacques Taminiaux, Prof. Richard Cobb-Stevens, Prof. John Sallis

**Lonergan Workshop** Edited by Prof. Frederick Lawrence (Theology)

**Method: Journal of Lonergan Studies** Edited by Prof. Patrick Byrne

**Philosophy and Social Criticism** (formerly Cultural Hermeneutics) Edited by Prof. David Rasmussen

**Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy** Edited by Prof. Gary Gurtler, S.J.

**Research in Phenomenology** Edited by Prof. John Sallis
Attachments

1. Syllabus for the M.A. Comprehensive Examination
2. Logic Guidelines
3. Doctoral Comprehensive Selection Sheet
4. Welcome from the Graduate Students
5. Academic Calendar (2013-2014)
6. Advisement Questionnaire
7. Boston College map
8. Fall 2013 Electives Philosophy Department
9. Spring 2014 Electives Philosophy Department

July 2013
In effect beginning in September 2013

The M.A. Comprehensive Exam Reading List

Historical and Systematic Areas

Part I: Ancient
Required:
- Plato, *Republic*, and either *Theaetetus* or *Sophist*
- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, and one of *Metaphysics* Bks I, VII; *Physics*, II, III chs. 1-3; or *De anima* Bks. 2-3

Choose one of the following:
- Plotinus, *(Enneads 1.6 On Beauty, 3.7 On Time)*
- Epicurianism, Long and Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, #s 6, 8, 11, 14-17, 20-25
- Stoics, Long and Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, #s 33, 39, 40, 46, 55, 57-63, 65

Part II: Medieval Philosophy
Required:
- Augustine *Confessions* I-XI, *De Trinitate* X-XI
- Aquinas, *Summa theologiae* Part I, qq. 1-3 (sacred science, existence, simplicity of God); Part I, qq. 75, 76, 79, 84, (soul/body, knowledge) Part I-II 90-92, 94-5 (natural law)

Choose one of the following:
- Anselm, *Monologion & Proslogion*
- Boethius, *Consolation*
- Averroes, *Incoherence of the Incoherence* (section on the natural sciences)
- Duns Scotus, *Philosophical Writings* (selections in Hackett ed.)
- William of Ockham, *Philosophical Writings* (selections in Hackett ed.)

Part III: Modern philosophy
Required:
- Descartes, *Meditations*
- Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Prefaces, Introduction, Transcendental Aesthetic, Transcendental Logic, Transcendental Analytic, Books I-II; *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*

Choose one of the following:
- Spinoza, *Ethics*
- Leibniz, *Theodicy*
- Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*
- Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality & The Social Contract*
Part IV: 19th-contemporary
(Choose one author from Column A and one from Column B)

Column A:

Henri Bergson, *Time and Free Will; Creative Evolution*
Maurice Blondel, *Action*
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*
Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, *Dialectic of the Enlightenment*
Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Simone De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
Jacques Derrida, *Speech and Phenomena; Writing and Difference*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Vols. 1 & 2*
Hans Georg Gadamer, *Truth and Method*
Jürgen Habermas, *Theory of Communicative Action, Vol.1, chs 1-4; Between Facts and Norms, chs 1, 3, 5, and 9*
Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time (Intro., Part 1, Division 1), Letter on Humanism*
Edmund Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations; Logical Investigations 1, 2, 6*
Soren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling; Philosophical Fragments*
Julia Kristeva, *Desire in Language. A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art*
Emmanuel Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*
Karl Marx, *Paris Manuscripts; German Ideology I; Capital I, Book I, Parts I-III*
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals; Birth of Tragedy*
Paul Ricoeur, *Time and Narrative, Vol 3, section 2; From Text to Action*
Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness, Parts I & III; Existentialism is a Humanism*
Iris Marion Young, *On Female Body Experience: 'Throwing Like a Girl' and Other Essays*

Column B:

J. L. Austin, *How to Do Things with Words and Sense and Sensibilia*
Donald Davidson, *Truth and Interpretation*
John Dewey, *Experience and Nature; Art and Experience*
Phillipa Foot, *Virtues and Vices and Other Essays in Moral Philosophy*
Ian Hacking, *Representing and Intervening: Introductory Topics in the Philosophy of Natural Science*
Henry James, *Pragmatism, The Will to Believe, chs. 1-3; Principles of Psychology, chs. 9-10, 15*
Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions; Lakatos and Musgrave, Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge, pp. 1-25; 51-59; 59-76; 91-137; 197-229*
Bernard Lonergan, *Insight*
Alistair MacIntyre, *After Virtue; Three Rival Versions of Moral Enquiry*
John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty; Utilitarianism*
Martha Craven Nussbaum, *Love's Knowledge*
Charles Sanders Peirce, “The Fixation of Belief,” “The Essentials of Pragmatism,” “Evolutionary Love”
Part V: Systematic areas: (Choose 2 systematic areas, and answer questions on them, using those thinkers required and chosen in Parts I-IV on the exam.)

Metaphysics
Epistemology
Ethics
Natural theology/philosophy of religion
Social/Political philosophy

Procedure and Criteria for Evaluation

1. The examination is 75 minutes in duration. The faculty examining board will commit approximately 2/3 of that time to the separate historical areas, and 1/3 to the systematic areas.

2. Students will be able to choose the order for the five parts of the exam.

3. Students shall be evaluated according to the following system:  
   Distinction: outstanding in at least 5 of the 6 areas and competence* in the other.  
   Pass: competence in all 6 areas.  
   Fail: lack of competence in any one of the 6 areas.

   *Competence in the historical areas shall include the ability to connect and compare texts within the historical period; competence in the chosen systematic areas shall include the ability to articulate common questions and explain and relate different responses across all historical periods.
Logic Guidelines

All Ph.D. candidates are required to demonstrate proficiency in the area of logic. This may be accomplished in one of three ways: By taking PL 577, “Introduction to Symbolic Logic” with a grade of “B” or better; or by attaining a score of 80% or better on the Logic Proficiency Examination; or by showing evidence of comparable prior course work. The Examination will be administered once each year in the later part of May. Candidates are expected to have taken either the course or the Examination by the Spring of their second year.

The Logic Proficiency Examination is a two-hour written examination. It will cover both traditional and symbolic logic, and will include questions concerning the nature and purposes of logic, as well as questions testing logical skills.

Basic texts for the examination are:

Aristotle, *Prior Analytics*, and either
M. Bergman, J. Moor, I. Nelson, *The Logic Book*

Questions covering the following areas may be expected:

1. Definition and illustration of basic logical terms. For example: validity, indifference, proposition, function, predication, relation, implication, description, syllogism, metalanguage, definition, intension, logical system, “reduction to first figure,” etc.

2. Identification and explanation of valid and invalid syllogisms.

3. Use of truth tables to show validity, contingency, tautology, and contradiction.

4. Symbolization of proposition and arguments; propositional and predicate logic.

5. Proofs for arguments both containing and not containing quantified propositions.

6. Explanation of the need for, uses of, and historical circumstances surrounding the rise of both traditional and symbolic logic.

7. Discussion of various forms of fallacy.

8. Comparison and contrast of induction and deduction.
# Name

## Thesis Problem

1. Title
2. Description
3. Bibliography

## Systematic Problem

1. Title
2. Description
3. Bibliography

## Major Authors

### First major author

1. Primary Sources
2. Secondary Sources

### Second major author

1. Primary Sources
2. Secondary Sources
From the Graduate Students:
Welcome to the Philosophy Department!

We, the graduate students in the Philosophy Department at Boston College, have put together this information to aid you in your move to Boston as well as to answer a few questions we thought you might have about the department. We wanted to provide you with some user-friendly information about Boston and the BC philosophy department to make your transition into being a graduate student at Boston College as smooth as possible.

HOUSING

Apartment Listings: The Office of Residential Life--Off-Campus Housing Office located in Maloney Hall, Suite 220, maintains a list of available housing generally within a five mile radius of Boston College. The list is updated every day and is an invaluable aid to those searching for housing. Each listing includes the proximity to BC, whether parking is included, the monthly rent, and if public transportation is close. Many Boston College students live in Brighton, near Cleveland Circle, because this area is close to the BC Shuttle Service, and three public transportation MBTA lines, the B, C, D lines. Grad students also live in Newton and Brookline. The lists are available online at our website, www.bc.edu/offcampus. To submit questions go to offcampus@bc.edu. A Boston College username and password are required; however, incoming and perspective students may use an online request form to receive a special temporary ticket that provides them access. The rental market in Boston can be very competitive, and rental agents charge a standard one month “commission fee” to the tenant, equal to one month rent.

OFF CAMPUS HOUSING FAIR
FOR GRAD and LAW STUDENTS

FRIDAY ~ JUNE 21, 2013 ~ 10:00 am ~ 4:00 pm
CORCORAN COMMONS Building, 2
nd Floor, HEIGHTS ROOM
Located on the Chestnut Hill Campus

At the Off-Campus Housing Fair, you will meet with local rental agents who will be prepared to show you apartments in close proximity to Boston College and Boston College Law School. The fair presents a great opportunity to meet prospective roommates in person! Prior to attending the fair, please access the websites we recommend (below).

The Off-Campus Roommate Finder link allows you to list yourself as a “prospective roommate” and allows you to browse through the list of prospective roommates. In addition, you can place a “seeking roommate” ad if you have a vacancy in your apartment, or search for leased apartments where students are seeking roommates. If you place an ad, please make sure to complete the ‘comment’ box at the bottom of the page before you submit your information.
➢ To access the roommate finder link without BC credentials, go to http://orl-
ws.bc.edu/ocroommates/. You may continue to use this roommate finder link for daily updates anytime.

Another off-campus housing link directs you to a listing of local apartments, houses, and rooms for rent in private homes.

➢ To access these listings without BC credentials use our online request form for temporary access.
➢ With BC credentials, go directly to www.bc.edu/offcampus to request an updated list, as needed.

The Off-Campus Housing staff will be at the Housing Fair to assist you with your apartment search. In addition, representatives from health services, banks, furniture companies, and the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (www.mbta.com) will be available to answer your questions.

**ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE**

**Summer Guest House**
Should you require an overnight stay, a limited number of suite-style guest accommodations are available in one of the Chestnut Hill campus residence halls. Only adults over 18 years of age may stay at Boston College. The room rate is $114.00 for one or two guests per bedroom, per night, for a maximum of four consecutive nights. Rooms have AC and high-speed internet access. For additional information and for reservations, please visit www.bc.edu/guesthouse.

The Summer Guest House office will accept reservations beginning on June 3, 2013. Please forward any questions to guesthouse@bc.edu. You may also review the “Local Area Information” on our website for a current listing of bed and breakfasts, inns, hotels, and motels that are in close proximity to Boston College. Please visit www.bc.edu/offcampus for more information.

If you are interested in finding a roommate situation with other philosophy graduate students, you may email RoseMarie DeLeo, our Graduate Program Assistant, and she will notify you of students now present at Boston College who may be looking for roommates for next year, or other incoming students you might be able to connect with. Her email address is: deleoro@bc.edu

**Transportation**

* The BC Shuttle: Boston College provides its students with a free ride to school. (Please see enclosed map with the Shuttle Route outlined on it). One note: Many real estate agents do not know what the BC Shuttle is, so if you mention it to them they will think you are talking about the T, Boston’s public transportation system.

* The T: The T service which serves the areas west of the city of Boston is the green line. There are four branches of the green line: B, C, D and E. The B Green Line, which runs down Commonwealth Avenue runs directly to Boston College. The C line runs the length of Beacon Street to Cleveland Circle. Most Boston College Students take the B, C and D lines. (Refer to the MBTA map on their website at http://mbta.com/ once again to see where they are located!) The MBTA website lists subway, bus,
commuter rail, and boat schedules along with reduced fare programs including the Charlie Card. If you want to go downtown the D line is fastest and the B.C. Shuttle will drop you off right at the Reservoir station. The B and C lines are more accessible, but they stop more often than the D line, so it takes longer to get into the city. But if you want to go to places between Brighton and Boston proper, the B or C lines are the way to go. The T usually runs every ten minutes, although especially on the D line it can be much less frequently on weekends.

* The Bus: The 86 Bus is the most convenient way to get from BC to Harvard Square which is filled with interesting stores, coffee shops and bookstores of great quality (both new and used). You can catch the bus at the Reservoir T-stop which is accessible by the BC shuttle. The 86 goes through Brighton to Harvard Square and takes about 20 minutes. The bus usually runs every 20 to 30 minutes, but on the weekends it can be as infrequent as every hour and 20 minutes. There are schedules for the busses which can be obtained on the busses occasionally, or at various T stops (Park Street for instance).

* Having a car: Many students do not have cars because parking at Boston College and also in the residential areas is extremely difficult. Students who have access to a car find it easier to live further away from Boston College where street parking is not as difficult to find as it is in the Brighton area. Students living in the Brighton/Brookline area often have to rent a parking space for $100-$150 a month. Newton is a popular area for graduate students with cars. The Boston College shuttle also goes to the Newton campus, so it is possible to live in Newton and take the shuttle into school, but Newton is further from downtown Boston and not as easily accessible by T. In order to park a car on campus, a parking sticker is required. Stickers cost $280 per year for parking 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and $132 per year to park from 3:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and are issued by the ID and Parking Office in Lyons Hall. Identification and vehicle registration are required to receive a sticker. There is no overnight parking allowed on campus.

The First Few Days

Before you embark on your journey to the many bureaucratic offices of Boston College, stop by the philosophy department which is located on the third floor of Stokes Hall (617) 552-3847 and give your new address and phone number to RoseMarie DeLeo so she can get you on the department mailing list.

* ID Cards: All Boston College students must have an Identification Card to use the school’s many facilities. In order to get your photo taken for the ID, go to the Office of Student Services located in Lyons Hall. It is important to do this early as you will not be able to check books out of the library, or pick up loan checks without it. The BC ID also provides free admission to many Boston area museums including the Museum of Fine Arts.

* Registration: The first time around registration can be a bit of a hassle. You will be sent registration materials over the summer. You may either pre-register or register during the first week of classes. If you haven’t pre-registered or don’t have your materials, you need to visit the first floor of Lyons Hall to acquire a registration booklet and class listing. Graduate students often sit in on classes during the first week of school before making a final decision. Graduate students are allowed to take most 500-699 level courses, but should be aware that these classes vary by professor as far as whether they will primarily be directed towards graduate students or advanced undergraduate students. Professors will make this clear in the first days of class. Because of the shopping period faculty understand that just because a graduate student is in their class on the first day does not mean that the student is committed to taking that class, so they do not object if students “drop” their class, however professors do not appreciate it if students try to “add” classes late, especially if it is a class which meets once a week. Many faculty members are open to one-on-one Reading and Research courses, but these usually need to be arranged well before the beginning of the semester. Feel free to ask other graduate students if they have suggestions about which classes to take. If you desire more detailed descriptions of the courses, the department posts the course descriptions in the reception area of the third floor at 21 Campanella Way.
* Financial Aid and Employment: Financial Aid is located on the first floor of Lyons Hall. The On and Off-Campus Employment Office is also found on the first floor of Lyons and can be a great resource for finding out ways to earn money. They have listings ranging from child- and elder-care to library positions. Loan checks as well as stipend checks are picked up in More Hall on Lower campus (by the B line T stop). Student ID is necessary to receive your check. Stipend checks are available on the 16th of the month. For loan checks you will receive notification in the mail as to when they will be available as it is different for each person. More Hall is also where you will need to fill out tax forms.

* Health Services: If you need to get shots for Immunization records, you will find the Health Services in the first floor of Cushing Hall (617) 552-3225. Immunizations requirements can be found on the Health Services web at university health services at bc.edu/health_services. Massachusetts law requires all full-time students to be covered by Health Insurance in order to be protected in case of hospitalization. For students who do not carry such a policy of their own, Boston College is required by law to provide accessibility to a health insurance policy so that students may comply with the state mandate. The policy is underwritten by Blue Cross/Blue Shield and there is a charge of $1,115 for the Fall semester and $1,317 for the Spring semester or $2,432 for the academic year (August 7, 2013-August 6, 2014). Other rates apply for spouse and children. Graduate students may also be seen during the academic year on a fee-for-service basis at a charge of $70 per primary care clinic visit, or $80 per specialty clinic visit. Contact Health Services (617) 552-3225 for more information.

* Medical Insurance: Starting in the 2008-9 academic year, Blue Cross Blue Shield’s Blue Care Elect PPO will be offered as our new student health insurance plan to all eligible BC students effective August 7, 2010 for the 2013-2014 policy year. The BCBS Blue Care Elect PPO Plan provides comprehensive health insurance that includes access to their networks and pharmacies nationwide, a fitness benefit, as well as reimbursement for designated weight loss programs and access to their “Living Healthy Naturally” discount savings program. For more information, please visit www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/services/insurance.html

* International Students: International students are required to register with the Office of International Students and Scholars on the second floor of 21 Campanella Way. In order to register with this office you will need both your passport and visa.

* The Plex: The Plex is BC’s recreation center. One can obtain entrance to the rec center either by paying seven dollars per visit, or purchasing a membership. Membership fees are $150 per semester, $285 for the academic year, or $335 annual fee.

* Computing Services: Students may obtain accounts on the student mail system by signing up at the O’Neill Computing Center. The campus network (Agora), the internet and the world wide web can be accessed through the computers in the mailroom or at other locations on campus. Remote access is also possible if you obtain a remote access account and the appropriate software. On line services offered at BC include local and world wide newsgroups, and a site on the World Wide Web. Personal computing services are also available at the O’Neill Computing Center.

**Department Functions**

* Orientation Meeting: Usually within the first week of school the department has a mandatory meeting for the new Master’s and Doctoral Students. Here, the Chair and Graduate Director will discuss what the degree requirements are and answer any questions you might have. This is a great place to meet the other new students in the department.

* The Mailroom: All lectures, dissertation defenses, calls for papers, Philosophy Forum meetings, and social events are posted on the bulletin board outside of Prof. Jeffrey Bloechl’s office.
Student mailboxes are in Stokes Hall Room N312. One computer is located in outside the Graduate Lounge Room 232N and a laser printer is available for student use in Room 224N. The computer is linked to the Boston College Computing network, which includes access to the internet e-mail service.

* Department Social: Within the first month of school the department sponsors a party where you can meet the faculty and veteran students of the department in an informal atmosphere.

More Information

If you still have questions about apartment hunting, the workings of Boston College, or the philosophy department, please call the department (617) 552-3847 and RoseMarie will give you the name and phone number of one of your peers who has been around the department for a few years and has volunteered to answer your questions. She will be expecting your calls and will be more than happy to answer any questions she can. There is also a student guide published by Boston College which is available from the Office of the Dean for Student Development located in Maloney Hall.
Helpful Information and Links

BC Agora: https://portal.bc.edu/portal/page/portal/MyServices/Login
This is where you will access e-mail, course offerings, the academic calendar, and a host of other information and services.

Finding a Place to Live:
The rental market in Boston is tricky and moves very quickly. Here are some things you should know:

1. Most graduate students without a car choose to live in Brighton, Allston, or Brookline, since these neighborhoods are easily accessible by public transportation and close to BC. Other neighborhoods you may choose to consider, especially if you have a car, are Cambridge, Somerville, Fenway, or West Roxbury. Generally, the farther away you live from public transportation, the cheaper the rents are. For more information about local neighborhoods, see http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/reslife/offcampus/areainfo/neighborhoods.html

2. Most leases run September 1 to August 31. Listings start showing up as early as January, and generally, April, May, and June are the best months to find a place.

3. Most landlords require first month’s rent, last month’s rent, a full month’s rent for a security deposit, and a realtor’s fee that can be up to a full month’s rent before move-in.

4. If you find a place you like, don’t wait: make a move and put in an application. It could be gone later that day.

BC Apartment Listings: http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/reslife/offcampus/listings.html
The Office of Residential Life maintains a list of available housing generally within a five-mile radius of Boston College that is regularly updated. While the list is useful, apartments are not subsidized or discounted in any way, and most graduate students have better luck with…

Craigslist.org
Most realtors put up their listings here. It’s your best bet for finding a place.

Finding a roommate:
BC Roommate Finder: http://orl-ws.bc.edu/ocroommates/
Here, you can find a list of BC students looking to share a place or who have an open room.

If you would like to live with other philosophy students, try sending an e-mail to deleoro@bc.edu, our Graduate Program Assistant, who will forward it to all of the graduate students in the department or notify you of those who may be looking for roommates.

Transportation:
BC Shuttle: [http://www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/bus.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/bus.html) Here, you can find route and schedule information for the shuttle.

The T: [http://mbta.com/](http://mbta.com/) Here, you can find information on all Boston’s public rail and bus routes. The Green line has three branches that stop in close proximity to BC. The B line runs directly along Commonwealth Avenue and terminates at the University. The C and D lines stop at Reservoir station, which is serviced by the BC Shuttle. All three lines run downtown, but the quickest way to get there is the D line, which stops much less often. The easiest way to plan a trip on the T is to use the public transportation option on [google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps).

Car: Many students do not have cars because parking at BC and in residential areas is sometimes difficult and often expensive. Parking is easier farther away from the city. [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/transportation/parking.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/transportation/parking.html): Here, you can find information on permits for on-campus parking at BC.

**Health Insurance and Services:**
Information for BC’s student health care plan:
[http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/financial/medinsurance.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/financial/medinsurance.html)

Information for BC Health Services: [http://www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/](http://www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/)

**Financial Aid:**
Information on financial aid, assistantships, student employment, and other things money-related: [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/stserv/financial/finaid/grad.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/stserv/financial/finaid/grad.html)

**Campus Map:**
[http://www.bc.edu/a-z/maps/s-chestnuthill.html](http://www.bc.edu/a-z/maps/s-chestnuthill.html)

**The Gym:**
The Plex: [http://www.bc.edu/offices/rec/](http://www.bc.edu/offices/rec/) This is BC’s recreational complex. Some students choose to join gyms in their own neighborhoods as well.
Attachment 5

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2013-2014

First Semester

September 2  Monday:  Labor Day – No Classes
September 3  Tuesday:  Classes Begin
September 11  Wednesday:  Drop/Add Period Ends
October 14  Monday:  Celebration of Columbus Day - No Classes
November 27 - 29  Wednesday - Friday:  Thanksgiving Holidays
December 12 - 13  Thursday to Friday:  Study Days
December 14 - 21  Saturday - Saturday Noon:  Term Examinations

Second Semester

January 13  Monday:  Classes Begin
January 20  Monday:  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No Classes
January 22  Wednesday:  Drop/Add Period Ends
March 3 - 7  Monday - Friday:  Spring Vacation
April 17 – April 21  No Classes:  Holy Thursday - Good Friday - Easter Monday (except classes beginning at 4:00 p.m. and later)
April 21  Monday:  Patriots Day – No Classes
May 2 - May 5  Friday to Monday:  Study Days
May 6 - 13  Tuesday - Tuesday noon:  Term Examinations
May 19  Monday:  Commencement
NAME___________________________________________

Advisement Questionnaire

The aims of this advisement questionnaire are to assist the department in matching advisers and advisees and to give advisers basic data concerning advisees.

1. Please outline briefly your main intellectual interests as you begin graduate studies in philosophy at Boston College (e.g., medieval philosophy, contemporary continental, philosophy of science, etc.).

2. Please outline briefly your academic plans as you begin graduate studies in philosophy at Boston College (e.g., terminal M.A., eventual Ph.D., etc.).

3. Please outline briefly your background in philosophy and related fields (e.g., languages, history, science, theology).

4. If there are definite issues that you wish to raise with an adviser, or factors of which you would like your adviser to take account, you may wish to outline them here.
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*3/26/2013*
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