WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AT BOSTON COLLEGE

Boston College’s graduate philosophy programs attract talented students from around the world. We offer master’s and doctoral degrees, covering all periods in the history of philosophy and with a diversity of philosophical approaches.

The Department of Philosophy is noted for its strength in the history of philosophy, contemporary continental philosophy and practical philosophy, including ethics and social-political philosophy. In addition, the department offers several interdisciplinary programs: philosophy and law, philosophy and theology, and philosophy and psychoanalysis. The program also includes Asian philosophy and diaspora studies.

Each September our doctoral program admits a small group of new students, who are immediately welcomed as research assistants. The experience of working with an established scholar is designed to help the student learn some of the basic skills of philosophical research and establish a mentoring relationship with one or more faculty. The program’s flexibility ensures individualized attention in designing a plan of study. All Ph.D. students have funding through their fifth year in the program assuming successful completion of requirements. Doctoral students gain experience teaching in the University’s two-semester Philosophy of the Person core course. There is a teaching seminar in the first two years of the program to help prepare the doctoral students to design their own syllabi and to provide feedback on teaching, which continues in ongoing class visitations during their years of teaching.

The M.A. program admits an additional group of about 25 students, who share the same faculty, courses and other resources for the study of philosophy, including language preparation.

Philosophy at Boston College benefits from our location in the Boston area, a rich center of academic life, including universities, libraries and cultural institutions that aid all aspects of our research and scholarly interchange. Internationally, the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (Vienna, Austria) offers a program for those at the dissertation stage to reside at the Institut for six months and participate in lectures and seminars. The Boston College Office of International Programs offers a cooperative program with the Paris Center for Critical Studies, open to both graduate and undergraduate students.

We invite you to consider joining our thriving intellectual community as we continue to investigate philosophy’s perennial issues.

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The department offers a comprehensive program in the history and problems of philosophy, allowing for concentration in the following areas:

- Continental philosophy: Kant to present
- Ancient philosophy
- Medieval philosophy
- Social and political philosophy
- Philosophy of science
- Philosophy of religion

A significant feature of the program is the extensive and diverse range of courses available to graduate students every semester. Students have considerable flexibility in designing their programs of study and have access to the resources of political science, theology and other departments of the University as well as to the rich intellectual assets of the Boston area.

Ph.D. Program

Admission to the doctoral program is highly selective: five or six students are admitted each year from among more than 200 applicants. The requirements for the Ph.D.:

- 16 courses (48 credits)
- Proficiency in logic (tested by course or by examination)
- Proficiency in two foreign languages (Latin, Greek, French or German)
- Preliminary comprehensive examination
- Doctoral comprehensive examination
- Dissertation and oral defense
- One year of full-time residence

Students entering the program with an M.A. in philosophy may be given credit for up to six courses (18 credits) toward the credits requirement, but must take a minimum of 10 courses (30 credits) in the program.

The preliminary comprehensive is a 75-minute oral examination on a reading list in the history of philosophy. It is taken at the end of the student’s first year.

The doctoral comprehensive is a two-hour oral examination on the student’s dissertation proposal, a systematic problem and two major philosophers; it is taken by November of the student’s fourth year.

M.A. Programs

M.A. Program in Philosophy

The Master of Arts serves the goals and needs of a variety of students: those who wish to discover whether they should pursue the Ph.D., those who wish to extend and consolidate their knowledge of the field before moving on to work at the Ph.D. level and those oriented toward careers in business, economics, law, medicine, publishing and related fields who desire a rigorous and challenging academic program.

Requirements for the M.A. in philosophy:

- Ten courses (30 credits)
- Proficiency in one foreign language (Latin, Greek, French or German)
- 75-minute oral comprehensive examination on a reading list in the history of philosophy

Students may submit a master’s thesis in place of two courses. The master’s degree may be pursued on a full- or part-time basis.

M.A. Program in Philosophy and Theology

If you have questions and interests that lead you into both philosophy and theology or would like to deepen your understanding of each field by opening it to the other, you might consider pursuing an M.A. in philosophy and theology. This program is designed to address the various interests of students who wish to augment graduate study of philosophy with greater exposure to theology or graduate study of theology with greater exposure to philosophy, consider teaching in private secondary schools or simply feel in need of intellectual enrichment.

Drawing on the resources of major departments and distinguished authorities in each field, and situated at the heart of a prominent Catholic, Jesuit university, this program is structured around distinct concentrations that address major areas of common concern to the two fields and explores their historical, systematic and disciplinary relations. Students develop a program of study in discussion with an academic advisor and take courses in the standard graduate programs offered by the Philosophy and Theology departments. Concentrations include: Faith, Science and Philosophy; Foundations in Philosophy and Theology; Medieval Philosophy and Theology; and Philosophy and Religions.
FACULTY PROFILES

RICHARD KENNETH ATKINS
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Fordham University
atkinsri@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Pragmatism
• Philosophy of mind
• Epistemology

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

OLIVA BLANCHETTE
Professor
Ph.D., University of Laval, Quebec
oliva.blanchette@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Metaphysics
• Philosophy of religion
• Philosophy of history
• Hegel
• Aquinas

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ “Metaphysics as the Way from Phenomenology to Theology.” In Collection of Essays (forthcoming).
❖ From Questions of Being to the Question of Being as Being.” In Collection of Essays (forthcoming).

JAMES BERNAUER, S.J.
Kraft Family Professor and Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning
Ph.D., SUNY, Stony Brook
bernauer@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Holocaust studies
• Philosophies of Michel Foucault and Hannah Arendt
• Fascism

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

JEFFREY BLOECHL
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Catholic University of Louvain
bloechl@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Philosophy of religion
• Phenomenology and psychoanalysis
• Metaphilosophy

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ASPEN BRINTON
Assistant Professor, Philosophy and International Studies
Ph.D., Georgetown University
brinton@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Political philosophy
• Ethics
• International studies
RECENT PUBLICATIONS


SARAH BYERS
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Toronto
sarah.byers@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Augustine
• Hellenistic philosophy
• History of ethic (especially ancient and medieval)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


PATRICK BYRNE
Professor
Ph.D., SUNY, Stony Brook
patrick.byrne.1@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Philosophy of science
• Science and religion
• Aristotle
• Lonergan studies

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


JORGE GARCIA
Professor
Ph.D., Yale University
garciajl@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Normative moral theory
• Conception of racism
• Philosophy of Society
• Bioethical issues

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


GARY GURTLER, S.J.
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Fordham University
gurtlerg@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Ancient philosophy
• Aesthetics
• Plotinus
• Spanish philosophy

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DAVID W. JOHNSON
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University
david.johnson.8@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Contemporary Japanese philosophy
• Hermeneutics and phenomenology
• Comparative philosophy

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

RICHARD KEARNEY
Charles Seelig Professor in Philosophy
Ph.D., University of Paris
richard.kearney@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Contemporary Continental philosophy
• Existentialism, phenomenology, hermeneutics
• Philosophy of narrative
• Aesthetics
• Ethics

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ Dieu est Mort, Vive Dieu. NIL, 2011.

PETER KREEFT
Professor
Ph.D., Fordham University
peter.kreeft@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Philosophy of religion
• C.S. Lewis
• Ethics
• Philosophy in literature

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

MICAH LOTTO
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago
micah.lott@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Ethics
• Meta-ethics
• Political philosophy
• Ancient philosophy

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARTHUR MADIGAN, S.J.
Professor
Ph.D., University of Toronto
arthur.madigan@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Greek philosophy
• Relationship between Greek philosophy and Christian faith
• Contemporary neo-Aristotelian ethics

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
MARINA MCCOY
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Boston University
marina.mccoy@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Ancient philosophy and literature
• Plato (especially Platonic rhetoric and argumentation)
• Sophists

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DANIEL MCKAUGHAN
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame
daniel.mckbaughan@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Philosophy of science
• Epistemology
• Philosophy of biology
• Philosophy of religion

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DERMOT MORAN
Professor of Philosophy
Ph.D., Yale University
D.Litt., National University of Ireland
dermot.moran@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Phenomenology
• Medieval philosophy (especially Christian Neoplatonism)
• Philosophy of the person, consciousness and embodiment

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DAVID RASMUSSEN
Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago
david.rasmussen@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Contemporary continental philosophy
• Social and political philosophy
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

VANESSA RUMBLE
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Emory University
vanessa.rumble@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Søren Kierkegaard
• History of philosophy
• German Romanticism
• Psychoanalysis

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

JOHN SALLIS
Frederick J. Adelmann S.J. Professor of Philosophy
Ph.D., Tulane University
Ph.D. (honoris causa), University of Freiburg
john.sallis.1@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Kant and German idealism
• Philosophy of art
• Recent Continental philosophy

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ The Figure of Nature. Indiana University Press, 2016.

JEAN-LUC SOLÈRE
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Poitiers
solere@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Medieval and early modern metaphysics and natural philosophy
• Medieval theories of cognition
• Early modern ethics
• Modern scholasticism and its influence on 17th-century thought
• Pierre Bayle

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

MARIUS STAN
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins
marius.stan@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Kant’s natural philosophy
• Leibniz and Newton in the 18th century
• Philosophical foundations of Enlightenment science

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
The combined and varied interests of the faculty, as indicated in the faculty profiles, ensure that the department offers a wide variety of graduate course electives. While the number and content of the graduate electives varies from year to year, the following list is illustrative of the range of courses offered.

**FALL 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medieval Ontology</td>
<td>Solere</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phenomenology and Deconstruction</td>
<td>Sallis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolution and Social Change</td>
<td>Sweeney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augustine</td>
<td>Kreeft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoreau: Nature, Religion</td>
<td>Bloechl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy of Religion in Human</td>
<td>Blanchette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjectivity</td>
<td>Blanchette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenomenology of the Stranger</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**SPRING 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platonic Theories of Knowledge</td>
<td>Gurtler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kant and Lonergan on Ethics</td>
<td>Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epistemology</td>
<td>Atkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love, Lust and the Good</td>
<td>Lott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freud and Philosophy</td>
<td>Rumble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does God Exist?</td>
<td>Tacelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rationality and Religious Commitment</td>
<td>McKaughan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent Dissertations

2017
Ellis, David, “Providence and Pedagogy in Plotinus”

2016
Floyd, Gregory P., “From Consciousness to Life: Phenomenology and the Religious Phenomenon in Husserl, Heidegger, And Kierkegaard”
Rothman, Hayyim, “Reason’s Rebellion, Or Anarchism Out of the Sources of Spinozism”
Taylor, James L., “The Ethics of Subjectivity: Activity and Passivity Through Phenomenology, Hermeneutics and Askesis”
Ingiyimbere, S.J., Fidèle, “Domesticating Human Rights: A Reappraisal of Their Cultural-Political Critiques and Their Imperialistic Use”
Cain, Steven Robert, “The Standing of the Soul: The Search for a Middle Being Between God and Matter in the De Statu Animae of Claudianus Mamertus”
Oldfield, James Peter, “On Guilt and Recognition”
Larry, Sarit, “Trigger-narratives: A Perspective on Radical Political Transformations”

2015
Moka-Mubelo, S.J. Willy, “Reconciling Law and Morality in Human Rights Discourse Beyond the Habermasian Account of Human Rights”
Fenichel, Theresa, “Uncanny Belonging: Schelling, Freud and the Vertigo of Freedom”
Maughan-Brown, Frances, “The Authority of the Lily and the Bird in Kierkegaard’s Lily Discourses”
Ramos, Santiago, “What’s Beautiful is Difficult: Beauty and Eros in Plato’s Hippias Major”

Haggarty, Joseph M., “The Principle of Individuation According to St. Thomas Aquinas: An Interpretation in Embryo”

2014
Gomez Perez, Gustavo, “Gesture and Art in Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty”
Smith, Michael Jaeger, “Imagination, Authority, and Community in Spinoza’s Theoretical-Political Treatise”
Clarke, Evan, “Kant, Husserl and Analyticity”
Enslin, S.J., John V., “Kant on Human Dignity: A Conversation among Scholars”

2013
Vanden Bout, Melissa, “Thomas Aquinas and the Generation of the Embryo: Being Human Before the Rational Soul”
Hanly, Peter, “Figuring the Between: An Essay on Heidegger and Novalis”

Recent Placements
Central College, Iowa
Saint Anselm College
Saint Michael’s College
Santa Clara University
Seattle University
Skidmore College
St. Augustine College of South Africa
St. Joseph’s University
Trinity College
University of Connecticut
University of Dallas
University of Houston
University of Illinois
University of Massachusetts
University of Minnesota
University of Montana
University of Tennessee
University of Washington
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Xavier University
The oldest and largest of the University’s eight schools and colleges, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences offers graduate programs in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, leading to the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts and Master of Science. In addition, numerous dual-degree options are offered in cooperation with the Carroll School of Management, the Boston College Law School, the Lynch School of Education and the Graduate School of Social Work.

With approximately 1,000 students and 400 full-time faculty, the Graduate School is small enough to know you as a person, but large enough to serve you and prepare you for a rewarding life and satisfying career.

**Academic Resources**

**THE INSTITUTE OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY**

Boston College’s Institute of Medieval Philosophy and Theology unites the teaching and research efforts of faculty members in the Theology and Philosophy departments. The focus of the institute is on the relationship between medieval philosophy and theology and modern continental philosophy and theology.

The concentration of the Philosophy and Theology departments at Boston College lies in modern continental thought, so the context for carrying on a dialogue between medieval and modern philosophy and theology is well established. To foster this dialogue and encourage the scholarly retrieval of the great medieval intellectual tradition, the institute offers fellowships and assistantships and sponsors speakers programs and a faculty-student seminar to investigate new areas of medieval philosophical and theological research. The institute also runs a research center to assist in the publication of monographs and articles in the diverse areas of medieval philosophy and theology, and encourages the translation of medieval sources and the editing of philosophical and theological texts. For more information, call 617-552-0436.

**THE LONERGAN CENTER**

The Lonergan Center at Boston College fosters studies related to the work of the Jesuit theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan (1904-1984). Inaugurated in 1986, the center houses a growing collection of Lonergan’s published and unpublished writings, as well as secondary materials and reference works; it also serves as a seminar and meeting room. The center is located in Bapst Library. Boston College sponsors an annual Lonergan Workshop, which provides resources, lectures and discussion groups. For more information, call 617-552-8095 or visit bclonergan.org.

**BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM**

The Boston Area Consortium allows graduate students to cross-register for courses at Boston University, Brandeis University and Tufts University.

**BOSTON COLLEGE LIBRARIES**

The University is home to eight libraries, containing 2.95 million volumes; more than 700 manuscript collections, including music, photos, art and artifacts; 625,000 e-books; and more than 600 electronic databases. O’Neill Library, Boston College’s main library, offers subject-specialist librarians to help with research, to set up alerts to publications in areas of interest and to answer any research- and library-related questions.

**THE BOSTON LIBRARY CONSORTIUM**

The Boston Library Consortium allows Boston College students access to millions of volumes and other services at 19 area institutions in addition to the world-class resources available through the Boston College Library System.

**THE GRADUATE CONSORTIUM IN WOMEN’S STUDIES**

The Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies (GCWS) brings together scholars and teachers at nine degree-granting institutions in the Boston area: Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Simmons College, Tufts University and the University of Massachusetts Boston. The GCWS is devoted to graduate teaching and research in Women’s Studies and to advancing interdisciplinary Women’s Studies scholarship. Students can engage in the community and cross-disciplinary study promoted by the GCWS in myriad ways. Through courses, attending events and organizing conferences, these initiatives provide a learning environment unlike any other.
STUDENT LIFE & CAMPUS RESOURCES

Boston College is located on the edge of one of the world’s most vibrant cities. Just six miles from downtown Boston—an exciting and dynamic place to live and learn—Boston College is an easy car or “T” ride away from a booming center for trade, finance, research and education.

Home to some of New England’s most prestigious cultural landmarks, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston Symphony Hall and the Freedom Trail, Boston provides a rich environment for those passionate about art, music and history. For sports fans, Boston hosts a number of the country’s greatest sports teams: the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins and, of course, Fenway Park’s beloved Red Sox. Found within a short drive from Boston are some of New England’s best recreational sites, from the excellent skiing in New Hampshire to the pristine beaches of Cape Cod.

Boston also offers a wide range of family friendly attractions, including the Children’s Museum, New England Aquarium, Franklin Park Zoo and the Museum of Science. There are roughly 50 universities located in the Boston area, and the large student population adds to the city’s intellectually rich and diverse community. Events, lectures and reading groups hosted by world-renowned scholars abound on area campuses, providing abundant opportunities to meet and network with other graduate students and faculty throughout the Boston area.

The University

Boston College is a Jesuit university with 14,250 students, 805 full-time faculty and more than 175,000 active alumni. Since its founding in 1863, the University has known extraordinary growth and change. From its beginnings as a small Jesuit college intended to provide higher education for Boston’s largely immigrant Catholic population, Boston College has grown into a national institution of higher learning that is consistently ranked among the top universities in the nation: Boston College is ranked 31st among national universities by U.S. News & World Report.

Today, Boston College attracts scholars from all 50 states and over 80 countries, and confers more than 4,000 degrees annually in more than 50 fields through its eight schools and colleges. Its faculty members are committed to both teaching and research and have set new marks for research grants in each of the last 10 years. The University is committed to academic excellence. As part of its most recent strategic plan, Boston College is in the process of adding 100 new faculty positions, expanding faculty and graduate research, increasing student financial aid and widening opportunities in key undergraduate and graduate programs.

The University is comprised of the following colleges and schools: Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, Lynch School of Education, Woods College of Advancing Studies, Boston College Law School, Graduate School of Social Work and School of Theology and Ministry.

General Resources

HOUSING

While on-campus housing is not available for graduate students, most choose to live in nearby apartments. The Office of Residential Life maintains an extensive database with available rental listings, roommates and helpful local real estate agents. The best time to look for fall semester housing is June through the end of August. For spring semester housing, the best time to look is late November through the beginning of the second semester. Additionally, some graduate students may live on campus as resident assistants. Interested students should contact the Office of Residential Life.
JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY, S.J., GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

One of only a handful of graduate student centers around the country, the Murray Graduate Student Center is dedicated to the support and enrichment of graduate student life at Boston College. Its primary purpose is to build a sense of community among the entire graduate student population and cultivate a sense of belonging to the University as a whole. Its amenities include study rooms, a computer lab, two smart televisions, kitchen, deck and patio space, complimentary coffee and tea, and more. Throughout the year, the center hosts programs organized by the Office of Graduate Student Life and graduate student groups. The Murray Graduate Student Center also maintains an active job board (available electronically), listing academic and non-academic opportunities for employment both on and off campus.

MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART

Serving as a dynamic educational resource for the national and international community, the McMullen Museum of Art showcases interdisciplinary exhibitions that ask innovative questions and break new ground in the display and scholarship of the works on view. The McMullen regularly offers exhibition-related programs, including musical and theatrical performances, films, gallery talks, symposia, lectures, readings and receptions that draw students, faculty, alumni and friends together for stimulating dialogue. Located on the main campus, the McMullen Museum is free to all visitors.

CONNORS FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

Working closely with the Graduate School, the Connors Family Learning Center sponsors seminars, workshops and discussions for graduate teaching assistants and teaching fellows on strategies for improving teaching effectiveness and student learning. Each fall, the Learning Center and the Graduate School hold a “Fall Teaching Orientation” workshop designed to help students prepare for teaching. The center also hosts ongoing seminars on college teaching, higher learning and academic life; assists graduate students in developing teaching portfolios; and provides class visits and teaching consultations, upon request. Through these and other activities, the Connors Family Learning Center plays an important role in enhancing the quality of academic life at Boston College.

FLYNN RECREATION COMPLEX

The 144,000-square-foot Flynn Recreation Complex houses a running track; tennis, basketball, volleyball, squash and racquetball courts; an aquatics center with pool and dive well; saunas and more. Its 10,000-square-foot Fitness Center offers more than 100 pieces of cardio equipment, a full complement of strength training equipment and free weights, an air-conditioned spin studio and three air-conditioned group fitness studios. During the academic year, BC Rec holds more than 80 group fitness classes per week in a variety of disciplines, including Zumba, spin, yoga, strength training, Pilates and more.

BOSTON COLLEGE CAREER CENTER

The Boston College Career Center works with graduate students at each step of their career development. Services include self-assessment, career counseling, various career development workshops, resume and cover letter critiques, and practice interviews. In addition to extensive workshop offerings, Career Center staff members are available throughout the year for one-on-one advising about any aspect of the career path. The Career Resource Library offers a wealth of resources, including books, periodicals and online databases.
ADMISSION & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Admission Requirements

The application deadline for fall admission is January 2 for the Ph.D. program and February 1 for the M.A. program and joint Philosophy/Theology M.A. program. Please visit bc.edu/gsas for detailed information on how to apply.

Application requirements include:

- **Application Form**: Submitted online, via the GSAS website.
- **Application Fee**: $75, non-refundable.
- **Abstract of Courses Form**: A concise overview of background and related courses completed in an intended field or proposed area of study.
- **Official Transcripts**: Demonstrating coursework completed/degree conferred from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- **GRE General Test**: Official score report required for all applicants.
- **Three Letters of Recommendation**: From professors or supervisors. It is highly advisable that at least one letter be from an academic source.
- **Statement of Purpose**: A brief (1-2 page) discussion of an applicant’s preparation, motivation and goals for their proposed course of study.
- **Writing Sample**: A sample of an applicant’s best work (usually a course paper or equivalent) related to their proposed field of study.
- **Proof of English Proficiency**: Official TOEFL/IELTS reports accepted.

Financial Assistance

DEPARTMENT FUNDING

Doctoral students are generally admitted with financial aid in the form of research assistantships. These awards include a competitive stipend and a full-tuition scholarship toward all courses related to the program. Doctoral students generally serve as teaching fellows after the first year. Funding is renewable for up to five years contingent on satisfactory progress toward degree completion.

Ph.D. candidates are expected to pursue the degree on a full-time basis and to maintain satisfactory progress toward the completion of degree requirements.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students can apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA. The loans that may be available to graduate students are the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and Perkins Loan, based on eligibility. If additional funds are needed, student may apply for a Grad Plus Loan. For more information, see the Graduate Financial Aid website at bc.edu/gradaid or contact the Graduate Financial Aid Office at 617-552-3300 or 800-294-0294.

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) assists both faculty and graduate students in finding sources of external funding for their projects and provides advice in the development of proposals. OSP maintains a reference library of publications from both the public and private sectors listing funding sources for sponsored projects. In the recent past, graduate students have received research support from prominent agencies, corporations and organizations such as the Fulbright Commission, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the American Political Science Association, the American Chemical Society and the American Association of University Women.