Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

Saint Louis University’s graduate program in philosophy offers a range of courses in the history of philosophy with principal emphases in ethics, social and political philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, medieval philosophy and the philosophy of religion. Special resources available to the program include the international philosophical journal, Res Philosophica; the Vatican Film Library, one of the finest repositories of its kind in the Western hemisphere; the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies; a formal faculty and student exchange with the University of Frankfurt in Germany; and the James Collins Visiting Professorship, through which noted European scholars are invited to teach in the graduate program in the department.

M.A.:
Two options are available for the Master of Arts degree: thesis and non-thesis.

The nontesis program requires 30 credit hours approved by the chair, a minimum of 15 graduate credit hours, a minimum of 18 credit hours in philosophy (12 of which must be graduate) and completion of the review synthesis course (three credit hours).

The thesis program requires 30 credit hours, including:
• 24 credit hours of graduate-level courses (12 of which must be credit hours in ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary periods)
• Six credit hours of thesis research
• Completion of a three-hour written examination on the history of philosophy covering three of the four historical periods
• Completion of thesis
• One-hour oral examination on master’s thesis and coursework
• Reading proficiency in French, German or other foreign language

Ph.D.:
The Doctor of Philosophy program is designed to prepare students to enter the field of philosophy as teachers at all levels, undergraduate and graduate, and as scholars prepared to engage at the highest levels of philosophical discourse practiced in the discipline.

Fifty-four credit hours of graduate courses are required with the following distribution:
• 21 credit hours in the history of philosophy:
  - Two seminars/courses in the following areas: ancient, medieval and modern
  - One seminar/course in contemporary history
• 15 credit hours in “topics” in three of the following four areas: ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and social and political
• Nine credit hours of electives
• One course (three credit hours) in advanced logic
• Six credit hours of two three-hour reading courses in the topic of the dissertation culminating in the dissertation prospectus

Recognition:
The Philosophical Gourmet 2011 ranked the SLU philosophy department highly in four areas: medieval philosophy, philosophy of religion, epistemology, action theory and social philosophy.

Career Paths:
Possible careers include diplomat, professor, lawyer, church ministry and public service official.
Philosophy

FACULTY

Michael Barber, S.J., Ph.D.: Phenomenology, ethics and social philosophy
Gregory Beabout, Ph.D.: Ethics, Kierkegaard, Catholic social thought
Scott Berman, Ph.D.: Greek philosophy, contemporary metaphysics
Jeff Bishop, Ph.D.: Medical ethics, bioethics, philosophy of medicine, Foucault, MacIntyre
James Bohman, Ph.D.: Political philosophy, philosophy of social science
Susan Brower-Toland, Ph.D.: Medieval philosophy
John Greco, Ph.D.: Epistemology
Dan Haybron, Ph.D.: Ethics, philosophy of psychology, moral psychology, social and political philosophy
Jonathan Jacobs, Ph.D.: Metaphysics, philosophy of religion
Kathryn Lindeman, Ph.D.: Ethics, meta-ethics, epistemology
Jack Marler, Ph.D.: Plotinus, Augustine, early medieval philosophy
Colleen McCluskey, Ph.D.: Medieval philosophy, ethics, feminism
Ian McCready-Flora, Ph.D.: Ancient philosophy (especially Aristotle and Plato)
Scott Ragland, Ph.D.: Early modern philosophy, Descartes
William Rehg, S.J., Ph.D.: Argumentation theory, sciences and technology studies, ethics and social-political theory
Joe Salerno, Ph.D.: Epistemology and philosophy of logic
Kent Staley, Ph.D.: Philosophy of science
Eleonore Stump, Ph.D.: Medieval philosophy, philosophy of religion, metaphysics
George Terzis, Ph.D.: Greek philosophy, ethical theory, philosophy of mind
Theodore R. Vitali, C.P., Ph.D.: Philosophical theology, process metaphysics, environmental ethics
Leamon Bazil, Ph.D. (Postdoctoral teaching fellow): Social-political philosophy, ethics

DEGREES OFFERED

• Master of Arts (M.A.) in Philosophy
• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Philosophy

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE G scores
• Résumé
• Writing sample
• Professional goal statement

Apply by:

Fall: Feb. 15
Spring: N/A
Summer: N/A

Contact Philosophy Department at sluphilo@slu.edu or 314-977-3149 for more information.

COURSES AVAILABLE

DAYS             NIGHTS             WEEKENDS         ONLINE

At present, there are six different forms of financial aid available to graduate students in philosophy in good academic standing: teaching assistantship, graduate fellowship, minority fellowship, presidential fellowship, dissertation fellowship and tuition remission.