

# Statement of Requirements for the MA and Ph.D. Degrees in Philosophy at the University of Iowa

## 1 Preliminary Comments

- 1.1 The requirements described in this statement are additional to those specified in the [Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College](#).
- 1.2 Participation in the graduate program in philosophy at the University of Iowa requires a background comparable to that of a student who has completed an undergraduate major in philosophy at the University of Iowa. If the training of an entering graduate student has serious deficiencies, the student will be required to take one or more courses of a level that may not be applied to his or her Plan of Study (that is, course below the 4000 level). In particular, the student must demonstrate by the end of the first year of graduate study either by undergraduate transcript or by special examination or by passing 2603 with a minimum grade of B+ that he or she has the necessary background in logic. A student who lacks mastery of Standard English must also demonstrate, by the time of the first annual evaluation after enrollment ([see section 12](#)), proficiency in writing and speaking English, to be determined by the faculty of the Department of Philosophy.
- 1.3 A student in the first two years of graduate study will ordinarily not be permitted to take a readings course. Exception will be made only when it can be shown that there is a clear educational advantage for the student in doing so. A letter of support from the faculty member with whom the readings will be done will be considered as strong reason for allowing exception.

## 2 Course-Distribution Requirements for the MA Degree

- 2.1 The student must pass with a grade of B or better two advanced courses in the area of Metaphysics and Epistemology. The courses in Metaphysics and Epistemology are:

4379 – Quine

4586 – Metaphysics

4587 – Epistemology

4588 – Philosophy of Mind

4589 – Philosophy of Language

6300 – Seminar: Philosophical Analysis

6510 – Seminar: Metaphysics

6520 – Seminar: Epistemology

6540 – Seminar: Philosophy of Language

6800 – Seminar: Philosophy of Religion\*

\*6800, Seminar: Philosophy of Religion will be counted under either Metaphysics and Epistemology or Value Theory, depending on the nature of the course when the student takes it.

- 2.2 The student must pass with a grade of B or better two advanced courses in the combined areas of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy and Modern Philosophy. The courses in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy are:

4152 – Plato

4153– Aristotle  
6100 – Seminar: Ancient Philosophy

The courses in Modern Philosophy are: 4258 – Descartes  
4260 – Spinoza and Leibniz  
4263 – Berkeley and Hume  
4266 – Kant  
4377 – Wittgenstein  
6200 – Seminar: Modern Philosophy

2.3 The student must pass with a grade of B or better one advanced course in the area of Logic, Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of Mathematics. The courses in Logic, Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of Mathematics are:

4346 – Frege and Russell  
4691 – Mathematical Logic  
4692 – Modal Logic  
4694 – Philosophy of Science  
4696 – Philosophy of the Human Sciences  
6620 – Seminar: Philosophy of Science

2.4 The student must pass with a grade of B or better one advanced course in the area of Value Theory. The courses in Value Theory are:

4480 – Analytic Ethics  
4482 – History of Ethics  
4485 – Political Philosophy  
6400 – Seminar: Ethics  
6800 – Seminar: Philosophy of Religion\*

\*6800, Seminar: Philosophy of Religion will be counted under either Metaphysics and Epistemology or Value Theory, depending on the nature of the course when the student takes it.

2.5 Depending on its content when the student took it, 4798 may also be used toward the satisfaction of the course-distribution requirements of any of the four areas.

2.6 With the permission of the [Director of Graduate Studies](#), a student may take a research course in the place of one course that would satisfy or partially satisfy one of the course-distribution requirements. The student must provide a good reason for meeting the requirement in this way.

2.7 A student will be exempted from any one or more of the four course distribution requirements by passing at B level or higher an examination that covers the material to be taught in the appropriate course during the following two or three semesters. Such an examination must be taken during or immediately following the student's first semester of graduate study.

### 3 Final Examination for the MA Degree

3.1 The student must pass an oral Final Examination to be eligible for the MA degree. The examination will not exceed three hours in length and ordinarily will cover only those areas specified in [2.1](#), [2.2](#), [2.3](#), and [2.4](#). No later than one week before the examination the student will be informed of at least one of the questions that will be asked. A committee of three members of the graduate faculty of the department, appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies, will conduct the examination. The student will be informed that he or she has either (a) passed or (b) failed the examination. A student

who fails the examination may petition the MA Examination Committee for a second opportunity to pass it. The second examination must be scheduled not sooner than three months, nor later than one year, after the date of the first examination. A third opportunity to take the examination will not be granted.

- 3.2 A student who passed the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination may be recommended for the MA degree without taking the Final Examination for the MA degree.

## 4 Additional Requirements for the MA Degree

- 4.1 The student must take at least 30 hours of credit as a graduate student in courses accepted by the department. No philosophy course below the 4000 level will be accepted.
- 4.2 The student must take at least 24 semester hours of credit in residence.
- 4.3 The student must take at least 24 semester hours of credit in advanced courses in philosophy (those above the 4000 level) as a graduate student.
- 4.4 The student must take at least 42 semester hours of credit in philosophy courses in undergraduate and graduate study combined.
- 4.5 For the [Joint Program in Law and Philosophy](#), the Department of Philosophy requires that only 18 instead of the usual 24 semester hours of its 30 semester hours Master's degree be in graduate courses in Philosophy. The Department also has a requirement of a minimum of 42 semester hours in Philosophy in undergraduate and graduate work combined; and that requirement is, accordingly, reduced to 36 semester hours in the Joint Program. There is no joint program in connection with the Ph.D. degree.

## 5 Ph.D. Candidacy

- 5.1 Every student who has completed at least three semesters of full-time graduate study (or its equivalent) in philosophy at the University of Iowa, who has not indicated formally that he or she does not wish to be considered for Ph.D. candidacy, and who has not already been either granted or denied Ph.D. candidacy, will be evaluated for Ph.D. candidacy. (A student who enters the graduate program in the middle of the academic year may choose to be evaluated after two semesters of full-time graduate study.)
- 5.2 The main factor under consideration in the evaluation for Ph.D. candidacy will be the student's scholarly ability and potential, especially as indicated by the student's Coursework Evaluations ([See 11.2](#)) and the student's grades. Ordinarily, a student whose grade point average in the graduate program in philosophy at Iowa is below 3.5 should not expect to be admitted to Ph.D. candidacy while a student whose grade-point average in the graduate program in philosophy at Iowa is 3.8 or higher and who has taken a sufficient number of graduate-level courses may be confident of being admitted to Ph.D. candidacy. A student should remove all incompletes from her or his record before the time of being considered for candidacy. These guidelines may admit of exceptions in very special circumstances.
- 5.3 The evaluation for Ph.D. candidacy will be conducted by the full-time faculty members of the Department of Philosophy. For a student to be admitted to the Ph.D. candidacy, a majority in favor of candidacy from those choosing to vote is required.
- 5.4 Once certified as a Ph.D. candidate, a student is not required to undergo any such evaluation later. In order to retain status as a Ph.D. candidate and as eligible for financial aid, the student must maintain departmental and Graduate College standards of academic performance.
- 5.5 A student must be certified as a Ph.D. candidate by the faculty of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Iowa in order to take the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination or the Ph.D. Dissertation Oral Examination in Philosophy at the University of Iowa.

5.6 A decision to certify a student as a Ph.D. candidate does not commit the Department to financial aid to the student. However, a determined effort will be made to provide every Ph.D. candidate with financial aid through the student's fifth year of graduate study. Typically, the aid is in the form of a teaching or research assistantship and requires that the candidate is qualified linguistically and otherwise.

## 6 Course- Distribution Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree

6.1 The student must pass with a grade of B or better three advanced courses in the area of Metaphysics and Epistemology. The courses in Metaphysics and Epistemology are:

4379 – Quine

4586 – Metaphysics

4587 – Epistemology

4588 – Philosophy of Mind

4589 – Philosophy of Language

6300 – Seminar: Philosophical Analysis

6510 – Seminar: Metaphysics

6520 – Seminar: Epistemology

6540 – Seminar: Philosophy of Language

6800 – Seminar: Philosophy of Religion\*

\*6800, Seminar: Philosophy of Religion will be counted under either Metaphysics and Epistemology or Value Theory, depending on the nature of the course when the student takes it.

6.2 The student must pass with a grade of B or better three advanced courses in the areas of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, and Modern Philosophy, including at least one course from each area.

The courses in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy are:

4152– Plato

4153– Aristotle

6100 – Seminar: Ancient Philosophy

The courses in Modern Philosophy are:

4258 – Descartes

4260 – Spinoza and Leibniz

4263 – Berkeley and Hume

4266 – Kant

4377 – Wittgenstein

6200 – Seminar: Modern Philosophy

6.3 The student must pass with a grade of B or better two advanced courses in the area of Logic, Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of Mathematics. The courses in Logic, Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of Mathematics are:

4346 – Frege and Russell

4691 – Mathematical Logic

4692 – Modal Logic

4694 – Philosophy of Science

4696 – Philosophy of the Human Sciences

6620 – Seminar: Philosophy of Science

- 6.4 The student must pass with a grade of B or better three advanced courses in the area of Value Theory. The courses in Value Theory are:  
4480 – Analytic Ethics  
4482 – History of Ethics  
4485 – Political Philosophy  
6400 – Seminar: Ethics  
6800 – Seminar: Philosophy of Religion\*  
\*6800, Seminar: Philosophy of Religion will be counted under either Metaphysics and Epistemology or Value Theory, depending on the nature of the course when the student takes it.
- 6.5 The student must pass with a grade of B or better at least four courses designated as graduate seminars.
- 6.6 Depending on its content when the student took it, 4798 (Topics in Philosophy) may also be used toward the satisfaction of the course-distribution requirements in any of the four areas, but it may not be used toward satisfaction of the requirements of 6.5 (graduate seminars).
- 6.7 With the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies, a student may take a research course in place of one course that would partially satisfy one of the course-distribution requirements. The student must provide a good reason for meeting the requirement in this way.
- 6.8 A student will be exempted from any one or more of the four course distribution requirements by passing a Ph.D. Exemption Examination.
- 6.9 To meet the requirements of 6.1, the student must pass a three hour written Ph.D. Exemption Examination in metaphysics and epistemology.
- 6.10 To meet the requirements of 6.2, the student must pass a four hour, written Ph.D. Exemption Examination in the history of ancient, medieval, and modern philosophy.
- 6.11 To meet the requirements of 6.3, the student must pass a three hour, written Ph.D. Exemption Examination in logic, philosophy of science, and philosophy of mathematics.
- 6.12 To meet the requirements of 6.4, the student must pass a three hour written examination in value theory.
- 6.13 Any Ph.D. Exemption Examination a student may choose to take will be prepared by the student's Comprehensive Exam Committee.

## 7 The Area of Specialization and the Secondary Area of Concentration

- 7.1 After receiving Ph.D. candidacy, in order to proceed toward the Ph.D. degree, the student must obtain a dissertation advisor. It is the responsibility of the student to ask a faculty member to be his or her dissertation advisor. In consultation with the dissertation advisor the student must choose both an Area of Specialization and a Secondary Area of Concentration.
- 7.2 The student may choose as the Area of Specialization (AOS) in any one of the eighteen topics marked 1 to 18 below. This topic should be the one in which the student expects to write his or her doctoral dissertation. A minimum of three courses must be taken on a topic for that topic to be the student's AOS. The student may choose as the Secondary Area of Concentration (AOC) any one of the five groups marked A to E below except for the one that contains the Area of Specialization. (On the recommendation of the student's dissertation advisor and with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Chair of the Department, the Area of Specialization may be from the group that is the Secondary Area of Concentration. To gain such approval, the student must have good reason. The student will be required to take a total of four courses inside the AOC that do not overlap with the AOS.)

- A. Metaphysics and Epistemology
  - 1. Metaphysics
  - 2. Epistemology
  - 3. Philosophy of mind
  - 4. Philosophy of language
  - 5. Philosophy of religion\*
- B. Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
  - 6. Ancient philosophy
  - 7. Medieval philosophy
- C. Modern Philosophy
  - 8. Early modern philosophy
  - 9. Nineteenth-century philosophy
  - 10. Twentieth-century philosophy
- D. Logic, Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of Mathematics
  - 11. Logic
  - 12. Philosophy of science
  - 13. Philosophy of mathematics
- E. Value Theory
  - 14. Ethics
  - 15. Aesthetics
  - 16. Political philosophy
  - 17. Philosophy of law
  - 18. Philosophy of religion\*

\*Philosophy of Religion may be regarded as a topic under either Metaphysics and Epistemology or Value Theory, depending on the nature of the student's studies in the topic.

The student should inform the Director of Graduate Studies of the Area of Specialization and the Secondary Area of Concentration that he or she has chosen soon after making the choices.

7.3 The topics of the Area of Specializations and the Secondary Area of Concentration should be subjects of particularly intensive study by the student, especially in the third year of (full-time) coursework. In the Secondary Area of Concentration, the student must take courses additional to the usual course-distribution requirements in that group (see Section 6). The total requirements for a Secondary Area of Concentration in each group are as follows: at least five courses (15 s.h.) in Metaphysics and Epistemology, at least four courses (12 s.h.) in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, at least four courses (12 s.h.) in Modern Philosophy, at least four courses (12 s.h.) in Logic, Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of Mathematics, at least five courses (15 s.h.) in Value Theory. The additional courses may be, in part or in whole, readings courses. The student is not required to take courses in every topic that constitutes the group of the Secondary Area of Concentration, and is encouraged to pick for particular focus one or two topics from the group chosen as the Secondary Area of Concentration. There will be no comprehensive examination in the Secondary Area of Concentration, but the course requirements of that Area must be satisfied before the student takes the Comprehensive Examination.

## 8 The Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination

- 8.1 A student must pass the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination to be eligible for the Ph.D. degree. The examination may be taken only after the student has satisfied both the course distribution requirements and the course requirements of the Secondary Area of Concentration. The expectation is that the student will take the examination in the second semester of the third year or in the first semester of the fourth year of (full-time) graduate study in Philosophy at the University of Iowa. A student who has not passed the examination by the end of the fourth year is not making satisfactory progress toward the Ph.D. This fact may be taken into account in decisions involving financial aid.
- 8.2 The student must inform the Director of Graduate Studies of his or her intention to take the Examination at least three months before taking the Examination and only after having consulted his or her dissertation advisor. The student will do so by giving the Director of Graduate Studies a completed copy of an "Application for the formation of Comprehensive Examination Committee" form.
- 8.3 The Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination Committee will consist of at least five members of the graduate faculty. At least four must be members of the department. The Committee will be chaired by the student's dissertation advisor. Any member of the Committee who is from another department must be approved by the dissertation advisor. The Committee will be appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies following consultation with the student and the student's dissertation advisor.
- 8.4 The comprehensive examination will consist of a written and oral component:(I) A written prospectus that includes (a) a title, (b) table of contents of proposed chapters, (c) discussion of the contents of each of the proposed chapters, and (d) a bibliography. The prospectus should be at least 8,000 words (approximately 30 pages, double-spaced), not counting the bibliography. (II) An oral examination, which will test the student's knowledge and ability to undertake the project proposed in the prospectus.
- 8.5 Shortly after the formation of the Committee, the student will have a preliminary meeting to discuss the proposed dissertation project with the Committee. At least one week ahead of the meeting, the student must provide an abstract (2-3 pages) describing the dissertation project, along with an initial bibliography of relevant literature. The primary aim of the meeting is to offer the student some guidance in thinking about the prospectus and the dissertation project, and the challenges, problems, objections, etc., that are likely to arise, and recommend some further literature to consider.
- 8.6 The date by which the written prospectus must be submitted must be approved of unanimously by the Committee no later than the date of its preliminary meeting. The prospectus submission date must be no sooner than two months, and no later than six months, after the meeting. Ordinarily, examinations will be taken while classes are in session.
- 8.7 A copy of the dissertation abstract, signed by each member of the committee and showing the agreed upon submission date, will be placed in the student's file. The submission date may not be changed more than once, and may be changed only in exceptional circumstances; a student who wishes to change the submission date must apply at least three weeks before the scheduled date, and needs the permission of both the Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee in order to proceed.
- 8.8 The Comprehensive Examination Committee will, in consultation with the student, set a date and time for the oral examination, which will take place no later than two weeks after the submission of the prospectus. The oral examination will cover the student's prospectus, and test the student's knowledge and ability to undertake the project proposed in the prospectus. The committee will meet immediately following the oral examination in order to evaluate the entire examination. The student will be informed that he or she has either (a) passed, or (b) passed with reservations (such

reservations may require the student to do additional satisfactory work), or (c) failed, the examination. If the student fails the examination, she or he may petition the committee to be allowed to retake the examination and the petition will normally be granted. The second examination must take place no sooner than four months after the first examination. The exam may be repeated only once.

- 8.9 If the student fails the comprehensive exam, and does not petition to retake the exam or the Committee declines to give the student permission to retake the examination, the student may not proceed toward the Ph.D. degree in Philosophy at the University of Iowa. If the student repeats and fails the second exam, the student may not proceed towards the Ph.D. degree at the University of Iowa. A student who passes the examination with reservations may have to meet additional requirements before proceeding formally to the dissertation.

## 9 The Ph.D. Dissertation

- 9.1 The Dissertation Committee will consist of at least five members, four of whom must be from inside the Department of Philosophy.

- 9.2 The Ph.D. Dissertation Oral Examination will be conducted by the student's Ph.D. Dissertation Committee in accordance with the requirements of the [Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College](#).

- 9.3 The following is departmental procedure for considering students for the [Ballard-Seashore dissertation award](#).

1. The departmental Ballard-Seashore Committee will be composed of the Graduate Studies Committee. In cases where a member of the Graduate Studies Committee is the dissertation director of a student who is applying for a Ballard-Seashore award, the Graduate Studies Committee will locate another philosophy faculty member to serve on the Ballard-Seashore Committee (until there is no such conflict).
2. The Philosophy DGS will send an initial announcement about the Ballard-Seashore nomination process one month prior to the deadline set by the Graduate College. Students are expected to meet with their dissertation supervisor and other faculty to get feedback on their materials and then revise them accordingly. Students are required to submit their complete applications to the Philosophy DGS at least a week prior to the deadline set by the Graduate College.
3. The departmental Ballard-Seashore committee will consider all of an applicant's materials and decide which applications to forward to the Graduate College. The departmental committee will also consider an informational letter from the applicant's dissertation supervisor. As per Graduate College requirements, the departmental committee will rank the applications. The departmental committee will provide additional feedback to applicants, and final applications will be due to the Philosophy DGS a couple of days before the Graduate College deadline.
4. A student will not be nominated for the Ballard-Seashore award if at the time of the application they are in their fifth year in the program or beyond.

## 10 Additional Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree

- 10.1 Almost everyone pursuing advance research in philosophy, understood as a technical intellectual discipline, does so while also pursuing a career as a college or university teacher. Teaching is no obstacle to fruitful philosophical scholarship; on the contrary, having to make clear and compelling a philosophical position or problem to students who do not share one's own presuppositions forces one to think through that position or problem in depth. Philosophizing and teaching are thus inextricably connected. Teaching is closely linked to philosophical training in a



pragmatic way as well. Unless one can demonstrate, when applying for a beginning teaching job, that one has taught a variety of subjects within the field of philosophy, one's chances of finding a suitable teaching position in philosophy are virtually nil. For these reasons the Department of Philosophy at the University of Iowa requires of a candidate for the Ph.D. classroom experience as a teacher. Typically the first step in the student's development as a teacher is grading or teaching a section of a large lecture course; the final step is having primary responsibility for a course. The goal is for each student to teach in least three areas of philosophy. Every student granted candidacy for the Ph.D. is normally provided with financial support and specific teaching assignments. Ph.D. students in philosophy are considered to be students whose teaching enables them to become better philosophers and more highly qualified candidates for future employment in their chosen field. In very exceptional cases, such as those involving extreme physical handicaps, the teaching requirement may be waived; this is done primarily to avoid discriminating unfairly and illegally against someone otherwise capable of pursuing advance work in philosophy.

10.2 The student's dissertation advisor may, as a condition for serving as advisor, set additional requirements for the student. These may include, for instance, achieving an appropriate level of competence in a foreign language or languages. Students should take this into account as early as possible in planning their course of graduate study.

## 11 Annual Evaluation of Progress

11.1 The record of every graduate student will be reviewed once a year. This review will take place during the spring semester before the faculty allocates fellowships and assistantships for the following academic year. The purposes of the evaluation are (a) to acquaint all faculty members with the progress of each student, (b) to enable the faculty to best distribute the Department's resources (fellowships, assistantships, office space), and (c) to provide the student's advisor the best possible information for his or her recommendations to the student.

11.2 To assist the faculty in its annual review and in their evaluations for Ph.D. candidacy, every faculty member will prepare for every graduate student in philosophy (who is to be evaluated for the Ph.D. candidacy) in every course the student takes from the faculty member a "Coursework Evaluation" that will include an indication of how well the student met the faculty member's expectation of him or her. Soon after the student has completed the requirements for the course, the student will receive a copy of the Coursework Evaluation and another copy will be put in the student's file.

11.3 The student's academic advisor will review the student's situation with the student at the time of every early registration prior to the final decision on Ph.D. candidacy.

11.4 The circumstances that can lead to a student's progress being judged unsatisfactory include: (a) insufficient coursework. A student, except one who is writing the dissertation, is normally expected to take at least six semester hours per semester (not including summer school). This standard may admit exceptions in special circumstance. (b) Unremoved incompletes. A student is expected to remove all incompletes pending from the previous semester. (c) Unapproved absence. A leave of absence must be approved in advance by the Director of Graduate Studies. An unapproved leave of absence may result in dismissal from the program or a requirement that the student reapply for admission. (d) Low grade-point average. A student is expected to maintain the minimum GPA set by the Graduate College for his or her degree objective. (e) Too long in completing requirements. A student is normally expected to pass the comprehensive exam within four years of full-time graduate study, and to complete the requirements for the Ph.D. in no more than five years. Adjustments in expectations may be made for a

student with previous graduate training in philosophy, or a student who is studying part-time. For further details of requirements for timely progress toward the Ph.D., see [8.1-8.9](#) and [10.1](#). The Department makes no commitment to trying to supply financial aid or office space beyond the student's fifth year, or to a student beyond the fourth year who has not passed the comprehensive exam. Adjustments in expectations may be made for students with previous graduate training in philosophy, or who are studying part-time. (f) Unsatisfactory mastery of English at the time of review.

11.5 If a student's progress is judged unsatisfactory, one or more of the following steps may be taken: (a) placing the student on probation, (b) denying the student financial aid from the Department, (c) denying the student office space in the Department.

11.6 A student who is placed on probation will be reviewed again near the end of the following fall semester and either restored to good standing if the deficiencies have been remedied or dismissed from the program.

11.7 Any decision made as a result of a negative annual review to place a student on probation, to terminate a student's financial aid or office space, or to dismiss a student may be made only by a majority vote of the entire faculty.

11.8 A student who feels that an unfair judgment has been made about him or her by the faculty should talk with the Director of Graduate Studies about the situation and may appeal that judgment under the procedures described in the [Policies and Procedures Pertaining to the admission, Renewal, Probationary Status and Dismissal of Graduate Students in the Department of Philosophy](#).

## 12 Unapproved Absence

12.1 Any student who fails to register for at least one course in the department in a given semester (excluding summer) without the approval of the department shall be regarded as having withdrawn from the program. A student who has withdrawn and who wishes to return to the program must reapply to the department for admission.

Revised August 2018

# Policies and Procedures of the Department of Philosophy Pertaining to the Admission, Renewal, Probationary Status and Dismissal of Graduate Students

I. **College Policies.** Basic policy and guidelines for all units of the Graduate College are set forth in Part I, Section IV, of the [Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College](#). Herewith follow that material, which is organized into paragraphs A through F.

- A. **Nondoctoral Students.** A student, except one on conditional status, shall be placed on probation if, after completing 8 semester hours of graduate work, the student's cumulative grade-point average on graduate work done at The University of Iowa falls below 2.50. If after completing 8

more semester hours of graduate work at this University, the student's grade-point average remains below 2.50, the student shall be denied permission to re-register; otherwise, the student shall be restored to good standing.

- B. **Doctoral Students.** A doctoral student on regular status shall be placed on probation if, after completing 8 hours of graduate work, the student's cumulative grade-point average on graduate work done at The University of Iowa falls below 3.00. If after completing 8 more semester hours of graduate work at this University, the student's cumulative grade-point average remains below the required level, the student shall be dropped from the program and denied permission to reregister unless the student applies and is accepted for a nondoctoral degree or certificate program. If, after completing the second 8 semester hours, the cumulative grade-point average is at least 3.000, the student is returned to good standing.
- C. **Restriction on Students on Probation.** A student on probation shall not be permitted to take comprehensive or final examinations leading to any degree or certification, nor may the student receive any graduate degree or certificate.
- D. **Departmental Regulations and Dissemination of Information.** In addition to the above University-wide requirements, departments may establish further requirements which then determine the individual student's standing with regard to probation and dismissal. To this end, each department or program shall compile a written list of standards and procedures for work in that area. These documents shall be on file in each departmental office and the office of the Graduate College dean. Copies are to be available for students in the departmental office, and departments shall make all reasonable efforts to inform students. Subsequent changes in standards or procedures shall be communicated by the department to each student and the procedures shall be communicated by the department to each student and the Graduate College dean. Whenever departments review standards for a given program, the new regulations will not apply retroactively to the disadvantage of those already in the program. In addition to notifying students that they are subject to the rules of the Graduate College as set forth in the [Manual of Rules and Regulations](#), any standard established by the department more stringent than the general Graduate College requirements shall be stated. Information shall be provided outlining required courses applicable to the various departmental programs of study, examination procedures and other formal evaluations departmental policies with regard to awarding and renewing assistantships, time limits on programs of study, departmental registration policies, departmental grade-point requirements, requirements for changing from one degree program to another within the department, especially from the master's to Ph.D., departmental probation and dismissal policies and procedures (see E following), and other matters are appropriate. The nature of the departmental advisory system shall be explained to the incoming students.
- E. **Academic Progress, Departmental Probation, and Dismissal Procedures.** If a student is failing to meet departmental standards, the department shall warn the student of this fact in writing. The notification shall specify in what way (s) the student is failing to meet the standards. The student shall be provided a reasonable amount of time to meet the standards prior to departmental dismissal. If conditions such as conditional admission or probation are imposed, the department shall give at the time of its imposition written explanation of this status and its time limits.
- The Graduate College makes the following statement from the General Catalog):**

A student who will not be permitted to reregister for failure to meet standards shall be notified of this fact in writing with reasons for the action provided. Such dismissal may follow failure to meet conditions of admission, conditions of probation, preannounced departmental grade-point requirements or other standards, or failure of a regularly scheduled examination or formal

evaluation. If a student judges the dismissal decision improper, the student has a right to review. Each department shall establish procedures for handling such reviews. The procedures are to be approved by the Graduate College dean, and shall afford a fair and expeditious review. A description of these procedures shall be included in the departmental regulations described above (See Section D.)

- F. Graduate College Review of Departmental Dismissal. Questions involving judgement of performance will not be reviewed beyond the department level. If, however, the student feels there has been unfairness or some procedural irregularity concerning dismissal, the student may request a review by the Graduate College. This review may be conducted by the Graduate College Dean alone, or the dean may appoint a Graduate College committee consisting of both student and faculty members to conduct the review and recommend to the dean possible courses of action. The review by the Graduate College is final.

## II. Departmental Polices

- A. Departmental polices relating to programs, requirements for graduate degrees and reviews of academic progress are set forth in the "Statement of Requirements for MA and Ph.D. Degrees in Philosophy at the University of Iowa."
- B. **Other Polices**
  - 1. Admission and degree objective: Departmental polices and standards concerning minimum requirements for the admission of graduate students do not differ from the Graduate College polices.
  - 2. **Awarding and renewing assistantships and fellowships:**
    - 2.1 Standards concerning initial appointments: Because there are invariably more qualified applicants for assistantships and fellowships than there are openings, it is not possible to specify a group of qualities that guarantees an appointment. The procedure in screening candidates is one of examining transcripts, national examination results, samples of written work, and letters of recommendation for evidence of a candidate's intellectual excellence, promise for conducting research, and potential for being an effective teacher. In making our decisions, we do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, place of origin, religion, or sex of any applicant.
    - 2.2 Renewal of fellowships: Because it is the policy of the Department of Philosophy to reduce to a minimum the number of first year graduate students assigned teaching responsibilities, fellowships are awarded to first-year students only. Consequently, none are renewed. If a graduate student holding a fellowship meets the standards for the renewal of assistantships, he or she can ordinarily anticipate appointment as an assistant.
    - 2.3 **Renewal of assistantships:**
      - 2.3.1 Teaching assistants are employees of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences of the University of Iowa. Consequently, a student who holds an assistantship is expected to perform effectively the tasks assigned in accordance with departmental, college, and university regulations. To violate regulations is to court non-renewal. Flagrant violations constitute grounds for immediate dismissal from an assistantship. It should be emphasized that procedures for safeguarding the rights of assistants have been established by the Graduate College, the College of Liberal Arts and the central administration of the University.

2.3.2 Academic performance as a graduate student of philosophy is the second factor affecting renewal of an assistantship. The crucial question is: is the student making satisfactory progress toward the Ph.D. degree? If in the judgement of the full-time faculty members a student is not likely to complete the requirements for the Ph.D. degree, that student's assistantship will generally not be renewed. Consequently, it should not be thought that if one remains a student in good standing (off probation), one's assistantship will be automatically renewed. It should also be emphasized that student holding an assistantship will not be in direct competition with new applicants for financial aid. An in-coming graduate student admitted conditionally or a graduate student on academic probation will not be appointed as a teaching assistant. (For further details, see the point's discussed below under the heading: [Review Procedures.](#))

#### **2.4 Financial Aid beyond the Fifth Year:**

2.4.1 A student should not expect financial aid beyond the fifth year of graduate study in the department. But when there is the possibility of such an appointment, the department shall take into account the student's progress toward the degree including taking and passing the comprehensive examination, completion and approval of the prospectus, and progress in writing the dissertation. The department will also consider evidence of teaching effectiveness. Former students who have recently received the doctorate in the department will also be considered for such appointments and may be given priority over a student who is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree.

#### **3. Students in good standing:**

3.1 The Department of Philosophy imposes no minimal grade-point averages for a graduate student to be in good standing in addition to those imposed by the Graduate College.

3.2 The Department of Philosophy imposes no limit concerning the length of time a student takes to complete an MA or Ph.D. degree. Students are advised to examine the regulations of the Graduate College relating to such matters. However, a student is required to maintain satisfactory progress toward the degree objective. This means that a student will ordinarily be expected to complete the degree objective in a period of time shorter than the maximum allowed by the Graduate College, although allowance may be made for individual circumstances. See [Section 11](#) of the Statement of Requirements for the MA and Ph.D. Degrees in Philosophy for further details.

#### **C. Review Procedures**

1. A student who is placed on probation or dismissed from the Graduate College on the basis of low grades or who fails (or passes with substantive qualifications) a formal examination, e.g., the Ph.D. Comprehensives, or is prevented from scheduling a formal examination, may request a special departmental review. Such a request will be automatically granted. It is to be hoped, however that the Chair of the department will be able to settle any controversy on such matters before a review is formally requested. (It is recommended that informal meetings involving the parties involved be arranged by the Chair.) The sole ground for an appeal is that the student was treated in an arbitrary or grossly unfair manner. (Departmental judgments regarding academic performances are not subject to appeal.)
2. The departmental review shall be made by a committee consisting of all full-time faculty members and the graduate students' representative. The last-mentioned shall have no vote, while each of the former will have one vote. The student making the appeal will be invited to

attend meetings of the committee, present a verbal appeal and supply supplementary documents.

3. At least a two-thirds majority of the full-time faculty members present and voting shall be required to sustain an appeal. Balloting shall be secret and in writing.
4. If the review committee supports a graduate student's appeal of an otherwise automatic probation or dismissal, the Chair of the Department of Philosophy shall write to the Graduate College and state that in the light of very special circumstances, the Department requests that the student in question not be dismissed or placed on probation. It is understood that such an exemption will be of only one semester's duration.
5. If the committee sustains an appeal concerning a formal examination, the chairman shall take steps to insure that the examination or the relevant part or parts thereof be re-taken and that the conditions of the examination are fair to the student.