

*Section 2: What to Expect in Graduate School**

- 5-8 years for the Ph.D. with 2-3 years of coursework.
- Various distributional requirements (for example: the successful completion of a variety of courses in areas such as history of philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and logic).
- Ph.D. qualifying and/or candidacy comprehensive exams.
- Sometimes a requirement to show proficiency in a second language.
- Completion, submission and oral defense of a doctoral dissertation.
- Financial support. Don't go to graduate school in pursuit of the Ph.D. without some financial aid package — some combination of fellowship and teaching assistantship support. Terminal M.A. programs often offer little or no financial support, although this may vary. Be sure to check carefully what each department you're considering offers. In addition to the university specific research and teaching assistantships available to most students admitted into graduate programs, there are many portable fellowships and scholarships that are meant to support graduate study. Be certain to research these options and make a checklist of requirements, application procedures, and due dates for these awards.

* This section is indebted to David Brink's "Graduate Study in Philosophy" @ <http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/dbrink/GraduateStudy.pdf>; "Philosophy Graduate School" @ <http://www.unl.edu/philosop/undergrad/undgrad.shtml> in addition to <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/philosophy/nav03.cfm?nav03=12383&nav02=12463&nav01=12320>.