

Advanced Exercises (adapted from the Graduate Student Handbook)

Ph.D. students are required to complete **at least two** advanced exercises assigned by their Advisory Committees. Committees will design these exercises, in consultation with the student, in order to best serve that student's professional development. More specifically, the advisory committee will attend to the following goals:

- Students should achieve a degree of competence in a range of fields in philosophy that prepare them to teach undergraduate courses in those fields;
- Students should attain the necessary skills and proficiency in their research specialization in order to make scholarly contributions to that field; and
- Students should be prepared to secure full-time academic employment upon graduation in a competitive academic job market.

Examples of possible advanced exercises include written and/or oral exams based on reading lists, the submission of an article-length essay to a group of faculty who will judge whether it is of publishable quality, additional coursework in philosophy or another field, or a study abroad experience.

Students should begin discussions with potential faculty advisors about the possible content of such advanced exercise requirements as soon as they enter the program. Given the many demands of our program, it is particularly important that students **use their summers wisely.**

The content, deadlines and process for the evaluation of the two advanced exercises should be specified in a memo of agreement signed by the Advisory Committee and the student. For purposes of the advanced exercise requirement, **the outside member of the Advisory Committee (see section I) need not participate**; approval by three philosophy faculty members of the committee, including the chair, is sufficient. **A copy of the memo should be submitted to the DGS, who will keep it on file. Students should have this memo on file no later than the end of their fifth semester.** Exercises that have already been completed may be included. All the requirements must be **completed before (or simultaneous with) the Preliminary Examination** (see section III.J). **Advisory Committees should notify both the student and the DGS in writing as requirements are completed so that this information can be kept on file.**

Advisory committees and students can revise the memo of agreement simply by signing a new version and placing it on file with the DGS. Students can change advisory committees by making a new agreement with a different set of faculty members and filing it with the DGS. (Once the Degree Plan is on file with the Office of Graduate Studies, which happens approximately 2 years before graduation for most students, additional paperwork is required to change one's committee members, including signatures from faculty exiting committees.)

Students who entered the program before the Fall of 2013 are free to choose between fulfilling the Advanced Exercise requirement or the Comprehensive Exam requirement described in the 2012 version of this Handbook. These students must inform the DGS of their preference.