

Philosophy Honors Program Requirements & Application

Application Deadlines: Fall- August 1; Spring- January 1; Summer June 1

It is strongly recommended for students to submit applications well before this date to the Academic Advisor, Michelle D. Escalante email: mdescalante@austin.utexas.edu. All applications must be submitted via email as a PDF. No physical, word documents, scans, or pictures of the application will be accepted.

The Philosophy Honors program provides the opportunity for philosophy majors who have demonstrated academic excellence with the opportunity to engage in a two to three semester program focused on in-depth research in a particular topic to culminate a written honors thesis. The thesis should grow from the student's personal and academic interests and will be developed under the supervision of a Philosophy faculty member– Thesis Advisor, with expertise in the student's area of interest. The Honors program involves **three courses: a major seminar course PHL 375M (topics vary), and a two-part Honors Tutorial Course PHL 679HA and PHL 679HB** taken consecutively. It is recommended students complete the honors program in three semesters however, it is possible to take PHL 375M and PHL 679HA in the same semester. PHL 375M and PHL 679HB must not be taken in the same semester.

The successful completion of an Honors Thesis depends upon a good working relationship between the student, Thesis Advisor, and Second Reader. The student is expected to take initiative in communicating with their Thesis Advisor and Second Reader in scheduling meetings throughout the year. Although it is recommended that the Second Reader be a faculty member of the Philosophy department, they can be a faculty member of an outside department. Qualities of a Second Reader: a Second Reader will assess the thesis with the following criteria in mind: *Quality of argument, breadth of research in primary and secondary sources, quality of writing and organization, and conformity with current rules of proper academic conduct.*

Admission Requirements

- upper-division standing
- UT GPA of at least 3.0
- 9 hours of Philosophy coursework
- Strong research and writing skills. Completion of 1-2 writing intensive courses with a grade of B+ or higher preferred
- Submit an application by the deadline

Special Circumstances

- It is possible to register for PHL 679HA in the spring semester and PHL 679HB in the fall.
- Occasionally, a student can enroll in either course over the summer– for a whole summer session. The student must receive approval from their Thesis Advisor and Second Reader to

ensure they are available for guidance and support. Students should consult the Academic Advisor if this is something they want to do.

Requirements for Graduating with Honors

- completion of Major Seminar course **PHL 375M**, with a grade of at least B.
- completion of **Honors Tutorial Courses– 679HA and 679HB** with a grade of at least B in both.
- satisfactory performance on an **oral examination** for thesis completed in Philosophy 679HB with Thesis Advisor and Second Reader present. Should an honors student be interested in defending their thesis to an audience, consult the academic advisor no later than the 12th class day of the semester in which the student is enrolled in PHL 679HB for scheduling purposes.
- UT GPA of at least **3.00**.
- PHL GPA of at least **3.50** in the coursework required for the major and for honors.

To the Thesis Advisor

NOTE ON GRADING: A letter grade must be given at the end of each honors tutorial course– PHL 679HA and PHL 679HB. Incomplete grades are highly discouraged by the department.

Philosophy Honors Program Application

Name: _____ UT EID: _____

Email: _____ Total hours completed at UT: _____

PHL hours completed: _____ PHL GPA: _____ UT GPA: _____

Expected Graduation Semester & Year: _____

Major Seminar course **PHL 375M** (expected) completion semester & year: _____

Honors Tutorial Course **PHL 679HA** expected completion semester & year: _____

Honors Tutorial Course **PHL 679HB** expected completion semester & year: _____

Thesis Advisor's name: _____

Second Reader's name: _____

To be completed by student and Thesis Advisor: be specific with all requested information.
Please provide details on a separate page(s).

- **Thesis topic and description** (topic of research, readings, and writings)
- **Requirements** (books or materials to be read; sources to be used; number and length of outlines, annotated bibliographies, critiques, papers, research expectations, etc.)
- **Frequency of Thesis Advisor and student meetings**
- **Basis for grading** (grade distribution; percent of course determined by writing assignment(s), readings, research, additional evaluations)

Student Signature

Date

Thesis Advisor Signature

Date

Second Reader Signature

Date

To be completed by department:

Approve application: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Undergraduate Faculty Advisor Signature

Date

add date: _____

contacted on: _____

notes: