GRADUATE LEARNING GOALS & OUTCOMES

CORE SKILLS:

*Philosophy M.A. students learn to...*

1. Develop, defend, and criticize philosophical arguments and theories in rigorous and analytic fashion.

2. Utilize fundamental logical concepts and argumentative tools to analyze arguments, such as:
   - Deciding whether an argument is valid or sound;
   - Identifying the logical structure of an argument;
   - Drawing distinctions and giving counterexamples.

3. Interpret historical and contemporary philosophical texts.

4. Develop philosophical creativity, including how to:
   - Extend theories beyond their original scope;
   - Apply ideas to specific problems;
   - Develop new conceptual tools to address theoretical and practical problems;
   - Develop insightful examples, illustrations and thought experiments.

5. Acquire the skills to prepare an application for Ph.D. programs in philosophy, including a paper of professional quality and length.

KNOWLEDGE:

*Philosophy M.A. students can expect to...*

1. Gain a thorough grounding in one or more major areas of philosophy, which include the theory of knowledge, metaphysics, philosophy mind, the philosophy of language, moral and political philosophy, and the history of philosophy.

2. If they so choose, investigate philosophy’s connections with, and application to, some other field of study, such as the natural and social sciences, gender studies, linguistics, cognitive science, law, art, mathematics, and history.
SOCIAL JUSTICE:

The M.A. in philosophy contributes to the University’s goal of learning in the service of justice:

1. By enabling students to reflect on the nature and requirements of justice.
2. By enabling students to recognize and appreciate a variety of theories about how to be just.
3. By fostering the capacity to critically examine ethical problems and conflicts.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES:

After completing their M.A. in philosophy, most students have pursued a Ph.D. in philosophy. Many have gone on to Law School or have pursued a career in teaching. Detailed placement records are available here:

http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/philosophy/mastersprogram/placement.html