

Stony Brook University
Department of Philosophy

DOCTORAL PROGRAM HANDBOOK
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Preamble

The purpose of the Doctoral Program in Philosophy is to prepare students for original and independent research and scholarship in the field, and to help them develop the necessary pedagogical skills for teaching philosophy. This handbook offers an overview of the policies and requirements of the Doctoral Program and applies to all students currently enrolled in the program.

A. The Graduate Program Committee

The daily administration of the Doctoral Program is carried out by the Doctoral Program Director (DPD) in consultation with the Chair, the Graduate Program Committee (GPC) and the Graduate Coordinator.

The GPC is chaired by the Doctoral Program Director and comprises the Department Chair, MA director, Graduate Coordinator, two to four faculty members appointed by the Chair, and two student representatives elected by the graduate student body.

All non-routine decisions are made by the GPC. Decisions involving changes to the curriculum must be referred, first, to the departmental faculty as a whole in consultation with the student representatives; and, second, to the Graduate School.

The GPC is responsible for the recruitment and admission of new classes to the doctoral program and for recommending to the Graduate School appropriate kinds of financial support for the admitted students. The GPC also selects all nominees for graduate students' fellowships and awards.

B. Course of Study

The requirements and review processes are designed so that all seminar and non-seminar work can be completed by the end of the third year, leaving the fourth year for dissertation research and writing. The requirement structure is as follows.

B.1. Required Seminars by Distribution Categories

There is a distribution among three categories (see also Course Catalog):

- a. History of Philosophy (three seminars/9 credit hours);
- b. Interface (two seminars/6 credit hours);
- c. Contemporary Philosophy (five seminars, of which PHI 630 and 631 are required—15 credit hours).

Having chosen a concentration in one of the three categories, the student will take two additional seminars in the concentration chosen (6 credit hours). Students also take the Teaching Practicum PHI 623.

Required are a total of 12 seminars/36 credit hours plus the Teaching Practicum (3 credit hours) for a total of 39 credit hours.

NOTE: PHI 630: Seminar in Continental Philosophy (cannot be replaced with any other course).
PHI 631: Seminar in Analytic Philosophy (cannot be replaced with any other course).

NOTE: Independent Study (PHI 621, S/P) fulfills neither a seminar nor a seminar distribution requirement.

NOTE: Advanced Studies in Philosophy (PHI 620, graded) does not fulfill a seminar distribution requirement, but counts toward the number of seminars needed for graduation.

NOTE: All students in every G-level year of the program (e.g., G3, G4, G5) will be considered full-time 9 credits. The additional credit hours required to maintain full-time matriculation may consist of (i) additional seminars; (ii) Supervised Teaching (PHI 622); (iii) Independent Study (PHI 621); (iv) Advanced Studies (PHI 620) (taken only after the second year); (iv) dissertation research credits (taken after achieving ABD status).

B.2. Non-Seminar Requirements To Be Completed by the End of the Third Year

The forms pertaining to each of the following non-seminar requirements are in the Doctoral Program Shared Google Drive..

B.2.a. Symbolic Logic Requirement

To satisfy this requirement it is necessary to demonstrate knowledge of first-order logic. This may be demonstrated in one of three ways:

- (i) satisfactory completion (grade of B or better) of an undergraduate course covering standard propositional and predicate calculus. Students submit the syllabus and reading list to the DPD, who will consult with the Department logic specialists for approval.
- (ii) satisfactory completion (grade of B or better) of the final exam for the undergraduate symbolic logic course (PHI 220), administered and evaluated by the instructor.
- (iii) satisfactory completion (grade of B or better) of readings and exercises of a standard work, supervised and evaluated by the Department's logic specialists. For more information on this option, students should contact the director of the Logic Lab or the DPD.

B.2.b. Language Requirement

All students must demonstrate proficiency in at least one foreign language pertinent to their research. Except for individuals who are already proficient in a language other than English, all students are urged to begin formal language study during the first year of the Ph.D. program. For information on language learning opportunities at Stony Brook and elsewhere, contact the DPD.

Modern languages:

Translation from a foreign language to English (or vice versa) of a previously untranslated philosophical text of article length (approximately 6,000 - 9,000 words). The text must be approved in advance by one faculty member with expertise in the relevant language. If no such expertise is available in the Department, the student may, with approval of the GPC, submit the translation to a competent faculty member in another department or university.

Ancient languages:

The language requirement is automatically satisfied by passing the Basic Program in either Latin or Greek at the CUNY Latin/Greek Institute, or its equivalent at UC Berkeley, the University of Chicago, or the University of Texas at Austin. (Other programs must be approved by a faculty member expert in Greek or Latin.) If a student already has formally studied either Greek or Latin, s/he may elect to take a three-hour exam set and graded by a faculty member with expertise in Greek or Latin. The student is encouraged to take a brief diagnostic test to ascertain readiness. The Greek exam consists of approximately 500 words of philosophical Greek (Plato and Aristotle); the only help the student may use is Liddell and Scott's *A Greek-English Lexicon* or Liddell and Scott's *Intermediate Greek Lexicon*. The Latin exam consists of approximately 500 words of philosophical Latin (e.g., Cicero, Lucretius, Augustine); the only help the student may use is either Lewis's *A Latin Dictionary* or Lewis's *An Elementary Latin Dictionary*. The exams are proctored in the Philosophy Department; all use of electronic devices is prohibited during the exam.

B.2.c. History of Philosophy Exam

The History of Philosophy Examination is a major milestone for progress through the doctoral program. It is offered twice a year: January and either May or June. Students may attempt the exam prior to their fourth semester in the program; there is no penalty for failing any of these attempts. However, failure to pass the History Exam by the end of the second year may imply dismissal from the program. The exam is designed as a four-day take-home. Students will provide essay responses to four questions, selecting one question pertaining to each of the following four categories: Ancient and Medieval; Early Modern; Later Modern; and Comparative. Copies of previous exams may be obtained from the Graduate Coordinator. Detailed information on the exam may be obtained from the Chair of the History of Philosophy Exam Committee. The Committee also includes a student representative who has already passed the exam. This student plays an exclusively consultative role and has no part in grading the exams.

B.2.d. Interface Essay

The Interface Essay investigates a topic at the intersection of philosophy and another discipline, for example: a challenge to a philosophic conception raised by an artistic discipline; the philosophic analysis of a problem arising in science; or the ethical implications of a practice in an applied science. The Interface Essay must be approved by two faculty members, one from the Department of Philosophy, the other from a department other than philosophy, whose specialty is relevant to the essay topic. The length of the Interface Essay is to be approximately 6,000 - 9,000 words.

B.2.e. Style Essay

The Style Essay is a substantial paper that discusses and/or employs the resources of a recognized philosophical method or approach. The Style Essay must be of publishable quality. It requires approval by two members of the Department of Philosophy. The length of the Style Essay is to be approximately 6,000 - 9,000 words.

B.3. ABD Standing

By attaining All-But-Dissertation (ABD) status the student advances to candidacy and enters the dissertation writing stage.

NOTE: Students are strongly encouraged to reach ABD status in a timely manner. The Graduate School requires ABD status for at least one year before the beginning of the semester in which students plan to defend their dissertations.

C. Progress Through the Doctoral Program and Review Process

In the first two years students concentrate on seminar work and on preparing to teach their own undergraduate courses (as a rule, in the third year). The GPC undertakes a comprehensive annual review of every individual's progress in September of each year. One of the main goals of these reviews is to help every student complete all requirements by the end of the third year, thus advancing to candidacy. The Second Year Review is the Milestone Review.

NOTE: Final documentation of all requirements as noted in the Review must be submitted by September 1. If the student does not pass the Annual Review because of incomplete(s) and missing non-seminar requirement(s), the student must submit evidence of having completed all outstanding items by the following February 1.

Outline of the review process

C.1. First Year Review (September after first year)

- a. Completion of six seminars
- b. Completion of one non-seminar requirement
- c. All Incomplete grades must be replaced with letter grades by September 1

Recommendation: beginning study of a foreign language for the Language Requirement.

C.2. Second Year (Milestone) Review (September after second year)

- a. Completion of four additional seminars, for a total of ten

- b. Completion of three additional non-seminar requirements, for a total of four, one of which must be the History of Philosophy Exam
- c. Completion of the Teaching Practicum (PHI 623)

Recommendation: continued study of the foreign language.

C.3. Third Year Review (September after third year)

- a. Completion of two additional seminars for a total of twelve
- b. Completion of one additional non-seminar requirement for a total of five
- c. At least two teaching observations and written assessments by two different faculty members; see Note, below
- d. Independent teaching of an undergraduate course

Recommendation: selection of dissertation committee members, completion of the dissertation proposal, and scheduling of the proposal examination (through the Graduate Programs Coordinator) before the beginning of the fourth year.

NOTE: After completion of the Teaching Practicum, the Practicum instructor will make at least one initial classroom observation. However, for purposes of compiling a persuasive Teaching Letter for the graduate student's eventual job application dossiers, GAs (graduate student instructors) are encouraged to secure at least two observations by the same faculty member (not necessarily the Practicum instructor), spaced out over several weeks in the same term. Only one such letter, in addition to the Practicum instructor's initial report, is required for the Third Year Review.

C.4. Fourth Year Review (September after fourth year)

- a. Advancement to ABD status (advancement to candidacy) is recommended by the DPD and granted by the Graduate School Dean.
- b. Completion of Dissertation Research courses with "S" grades.

C.5. Fifth Year Review (September after fifth year)

Completion of Dissertation Research courses with 'S' grades.

C.6. Evaluation of Assistantship Performance (see also section D)

Graduate students are periodically assessed with regard to their performance as teaching assistants, graduate assistants, and graduate research assistants.

C.6.a. Teaching Assistants

The expectations of teaching assistants when assisting a professor and when teaching their own courses are outlined in Section D. At the beginning of each semester, the professor will outline, in writing, the specific duties of the teaching assistant. At the end of the semester, a written TA report is to be prepared for each student and placed in the student's departmental file. A student who has

inadequately performed TA duties is to be notified by the professor in writing. The student may submit a formal response that will be attached to the report together with the professor's notification.

C.6.b. Graduate Students Teaching Their Own Courses

The course description and syllabus must be submitted to the Undergraduate Program Director (UPD) for approval before the beginning of the semester. It is the responsibility of the TA to arrange to have a faculty member observe one class each semester. The observer and instructor will discuss the class after the observation. The observer will write an observation report which will include an evaluation of the course as a whole (as indicated by the syllabus) and of the instructor's classroom performance. A student who inadequately performs TA assistantship duties while teaching her/his own course is to be notified by the Graduate Program Director in writing in a timely manner. The student may submit a formal response that will be attached to the notification in the student's file.

C.6.c. Graduate Research Assistants (RAs)

At the beginning of each semester, the professor must specify the expectations for the graduate assistant and the criteria for assessing performance. At the end of the semester, a written RA report is to be prepared for each student. A student who has inadequately fulfilled RA responsibilities is to be notified by the professor in writing in a timely manner. The student may submit a formal response that will be attached to the report.

C.7. ABD Status

After reaching ABD status the student registers each semester for Dissertation Research credits with the dissertation advisor (normally PHI 699, 700 or 701). An "S" grade must be earned in this course each semester. To earn this grade, the student submits a brief statement of research activity to the advisor and the DPD before the last day of the semester, outlining research and writing progress. A copy will be included in the student's file. Failure to submit a report will result in a "U" grade for that semester.

D. Teaching Philosophy

The courses taught by graduate students form an integral part of the department's undergraduate curriculum. A distinctive feature of the Philosophy doctoral program at Stony Brook is the additional emphasis placed on the development of pedagogical skills.

D.1. Teaching Assistantships

As a rule, first year students are assigned as Teaching Assistants (TAs) to faculty teaching large undergraduate classes. TAs are expected to master all course assignments and to attend all class sessions. Each TA is responsible for his or her share of grading and for holding weekly office hours for two hours. Other responsibilities (e.g., review sessions, holding a lecture, constructing visual aids)

may vary. The faculty will communicate to the TAs their responsibilities before the beginning of the semester.

NOTE: TAs are expected to work 15-20 hours/week on average.

D.2. Instructorships (Independent Teaching)

After successful completion of the Teaching Practicum (PHI 623 in the Spring of the second year), students are assigned their own course sections (Fall of the third year).

The syllabus for each course, detailing content, readings, requirements, policies, calendar and grading criteria is prepared under the guidance of the Teaching Practicum instructor. It is then submitted to the UPD for approval at least one month prior to the beginning of the semester in which the course is taught.

Whatever the instructor's choice of topics and readings, the content of each course must fall recognizably within the course description in the University's Undergraduate Course Catalog, as approved by the CAS Curriculum Committee. The UPD may require revisions of the syllabi submitted.

E. The Dissertation Process

E.1. Proposal and Preliminary Examination (or Dissertation Proposal Defense)

The purpose of the Proposal Defense is to gauge the feasibility, coherence and significance of the project and to make specific recommendations for its development into a dissertation. The Proposal (customarily 15-25 pp.) outlines the thesis of the dissertation and intended strategy of argumentation. It includes a table of contents and a working bibliography.

The dissertation advisor must be selected by the student in consultation with the DPD and approved by the GPC. The Dissertation Proposal Committee (DPC) is identical with the Dissertation Examining Committee (see E.2., below), with one exception. The DPC only requires a minimum of *three* faculty members, whereas the DEC requires a minimum of *four* faculty members.

Unlike the Dissertation Examining Committee (see E.2., below), the DPC may have, but does not require, an outside reader. Thus the DPC consists of: (a) the dissertation advisor; (b) at least one other member of the departmental faculty; (c) at least one other faculty member either internal or external to the program.

Only a committee that has been approved by the DPD in consultation with the GPC will be authorized by the Department to constitute the DPC.

The committee is formally appointed by the DPD upon submission of the appropriate form to the Graduate Coordinator at least four weeks before the Preliminary Examination date. The form must be signed by the student and the advisor and submitted to the Graduate Program Committee with a brief description of the dissertation topic, no longer than one page.

E.2. Dissertation and Dissertation Examining Committee

E.2.a. General Information

The dissertation must be prepared according to the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations* available on the Graduate School website.¹

The dissertation must be approved by a Dissertation Examining Committee (DEC), appointed by the Graduate School Dean upon recommendation of the DPD.

DEC forms must be submitted by the DPD to the Graduate School at least six weeks prior to the defense date.

The DEC must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- two faculty members internal to the program
- one member external to the program (i.e., external to either SBU or to the Philosophy Department)
- one member who may be either internal or external to the program.

E.2.b. Composition of the DEC

The DEC (Dissertation Examination Committee) is carried over from the Dissertation Proposal Committee (DPC) plus one member who may be either internal or external to the program (see E.1., above).

The dissertation advisor must be a member of the SB Philosophy Department and cannot serve as chairperson of the DEC. The chairperson must be a member of the program, as well.

No member of the dissertation committee may have or have had a romantic relationship, or have a family relationship with the student.

Changes to the committee composition and/or advisor must first be requested by the student in writing to the GPD. The GPD will present the request to the GPC for approval.

Changes to the committee composition must be requested in writing by the Graduate Programs Coordinator and approved by the Graduate School.

E.2.c. Permitted Roles of Former Faculty Members, Advisors, and Alumni

A faculty member who leaves the program may continue to serve as an internal member on any committee to which s/he was appointed before leaving.

¹ As of September 2022, at: https://grad.stonybrook.edu/academics/thesis_dissertation_guidelines.php

A previous faculty member or alumnus can serve as an external member for any student who matriculates into the program after the faculty member or alumnus has left. If a student's dissertation advisor leaves Stony Brook University, s/he may continue to act as advisor, provided a co-advisor from within the Philosophy Department agrees to join the committee.

E.2.d. Affiliated Faculty

Committee members who are affiliated faculty of the Philosophy Department may be classified either as internal or external members of a dissertation examining committee. These committee members may serve only one of these roles for all dissertation examining committees in the Philosophy doctoral program.

E.2.e. Acceptable Length of Dissertation

A dissertation should be between 250 and 400 pages, typed and double-spaced.

NOTE: Copies of the dissertation document approved by the advisor must be distributed to all other members of the committee at least six weeks before the defense date.

E.3. Dissertation Examination (Defense)

The Dissertation Examination involves a formal, public oral defense. This event is conducted by the dissertation examining committee and is chaired by an internal member of the Department other than the Advisor (see E.2.b.).

Since the doctoral degree is conferred by the University, this examination is to be held publicly before the entire interested community. After the committee members and the candidate have completed the question and answer period, the attendees may ask questions of and respond to the candidate.

After the public defense, the examining committee decides, in private conference, whether the candidate has passed the defense. The committee members' signatures on the original dissertation signature page will indicate approval. (For revision requests and non-approval, see NOTE below.) All candidates must provide the Graduate School with a dissertation abstract and all relevant details at least four weeks in advance of the defense. The Doctoral Defense Announcement form is available on the Graduate School website.² The Graduate School is responsible for advertising the defense to the University community.

In order to preserve the public character of dissertation defenses as outlined above, all Philosophy dissertation defenses shall take place on the Stony Brook main campus. Exceptions require approval from the Graduate School Dean. All members of the examining committee are expected to be in attendance. In exceptional circumstances and with DPD approval, committee members may participate without being physically in attendance. However, at least three committee members (among whom the defense chair and the advisor) must be physically present at the defense. The

² As of September 2022, at: <https://grad.stonybrook.edu/forms/?accordion=undefined>

semester in which the student submits the dissertation will be the semester in which the degree is awarded.

NOTE: Upon completion of the defense, the committee may choose: (a) to approve the dissertation as it stands; (b) to approve it subject to revisions; or (c) to reject it. If (b), the committee must detail in writing the required revisions; specify a time limit for completion of these revisions; and specify by whom this completion is to be certified. If (c), the committee must produce a written report of the reasons for rejection. The dissertation manuscript must be submitted to the Graduate School electronically through ProQuest by the posted deadline for the relevant semester.

F. M.Phil and MA degrees

F.1 The Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) Degree

The degree of Master of Philosophy is intended as a formal recognition of what is informally known as “All but Dissertation” “ABD” status. This degree is normally reserved for students who have advanced to candidacy in a Ph.D. program but are unable to complete the remaining requirements. The degree implies educational achievements well beyond those required for a regular master’s degree.

Requirements for the M. Phil. are identical to those for the Ph.D., except that the submission and defense of the dissertation are not required. Students must be advanced to candidacy for one full year before receiving a Master of Philosophy degree.

F.2 Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy Degree

If a student decides not to continue in the PhD program, the MA in Philosophy can be awarded when the student has taken 30 seminar credits in the program and also fulfilled at least one of the following non-seminar requirements: style paper, interface paper, translation, or history exam. The 30 credits may not include independent studies or the teaching practicum.

The MA in Philosophy track is distinct from the MA in Philosophy and the Arts.

G.Study Abroad

Stony Brook philosophy students have been successful in obtaining international fellowships, e.g., Fulbright, Chateaubriand, Belgian-American Exchange, Rotary Foundation, and Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) grants. Prospective fellows begin preparing their applications during the spring semester before the academic year in which they intend to apply, i.e., more than a year before they plan to travel. Those who wish to study abroad are strongly advised to acquire proficiency in the relevant language(s).

The Transatlantic Collegium of Philosophy

Advanced doctoral students (ABD or nearing ABD status) who are interested in writing their dissertation in the general area of *Subject and Person in the History of Philosophy* are encouraged to apply

to the *Transatlantic Collegium of Philosophy* for the award of Max Kade Fellowships. Each of these fellowships supports a full academic year of dissertation research at a German partner university of the Transatlantic Collegium.

The selection of Kade Fellows is based on the applicant's academic record; the cogency of the proposed research program; relevant language proficiencies; competency in the history of philosophy; and fit between the proposed project and Collegium advisory resources in Germany. A call for applications is sent out each year. The fellowship selection process is concluded in the Spring Semester. For more information contact the Collegium Director.

H. Program Policies

H.1. Statement on the use of Artificial Intelligence

The Philosophy Department forbids the use of AI in the drafting or writing of work to fulfill degree requirements including seminar papers, exams, translation requirement, Style Paper, Interface Paper, History Exam, Dissertation Proposal, and Dissertation.

H.2 Incompletes

In general students are strongly discouraged from requesting incompletes in any course or seminar. University policy states that incompletes are only to be given in cases in which a student is unable to complete the work for a course in time because of circumstances beyond her or his control. Such circumstances are normally taken to include illness, death in the family, and the like. In addition, the Department has a completion deadline earlier than that listed for the University: All fall incompletes must be made up no later than **February 1** of the following semester, and all spring incompletes must be made up no later than **September 1**.

H.3. Program External Courses and Credits

At the discretion of the GPC, a maximum of two courses taken outside the Philosophy PhD program, including Inter-University Doctoral Consortium (IUDC) courses and MA courses, may count toward the fulfillment of seminar requirements. Approval may be obtained as follows.

NOTE: A student may take an Interface course outside the PhD program in addition to these two external courses.

H.3.a. Courses from a Completed Degree and IUDC Courses

The same course credits cannot count toward two degrees. Therefore, graduate credits earned for a previously completed degree (MA or PhD) cannot be transferred to a Stony Brook PhD. Based on course content, however, the GPC may recognize up to two graduate courses as satisfying seminar distribution requirements in history of philosophy, interface studies, and contemporary philosophy. These two courses may include any of the following:

- i. graduate courses from an uncompleted degree (see below, G.2.2.);
- ii. IUDC courses;

- iii. graduate courses from a completed degree.

Students may petition the DPD for approval of such courses. Petitions must include syllabi for the courses being petitioned. The GPC decides on the petitions. In exceptional cases, the GPC may waive the two course limitation.

NOTE:

- i. Petitions can only be considered for courses from institutions authorized to grant graduate degrees by recognized accreditation agencies.
- ii. Petitions cannot be granted for courses co-scheduled with undergraduate courses.
- iii. Students must have earned a letter grade of B or higher, or the equivalent.
- iv. Petitions regarding IUDC courses may be granted for courses with content not covered in current or scheduled Stony Brook Philosophy PhD seminar offerings.
- v. [From the Graduate School Website:] The IUDC is open to doctoral students in good academic standing who have (1) completed at least one academic year of full-time study and (2) are currently matriculated in a Ph.D. program in the arts and sciences. Terminal masters students and doctoral students not enrolled in the participating schools or divisions are ineligible.

H.3.b Credits from an Uncompleted Degree

Stony Brook's Graduate School allows the transfer of credits earned toward an uncompleted graduate degree (MA or PhD). Students may petition the DPD to transfer up to six graduate credits to the Stony Brook philosophy PhD. Upon GPC endorsement, the DPD will forward the appropriate Request for Transfer of Credits to the Graduate School for official approval.

NOTE:

- i. Credits must not have been used to fulfill the requirements for another degree or certificate.
- ii. Credits must not be more than 5 years old at the time the student is admitted to graduate study at SBU.
- iii. Courses listed as both graduate and/or undergraduate level will not be considered for transfer.
- iv. Credits must carry a letter grade of B or higher, or the equivalent.

H.4. Independent Study

Independent Studies are not to be taken in the first and second year. However, as a student's research begins to be more focused, he or she may find independent study with an individual faculty member useful in order to study materials not covered by current seminar offerings. More advanced students, for example those in the third year, may likewise find independent study helpful in focusing and preparing for a dissertation topic. After the student has passed the Qualifying Examination (ABD status), Dissertation Research designators may be used.

Courses taken in other departments may fulfill one of the Interface requirements, or, if concentrating in an Interface area may also fulfill concentration requirements. But independent studies in other

departments must be cleared by the Doctoral Program Director prior to registering, in order to determine possible credit towards degree requirements.

H.5. Support Policies

At present the Philosophy Department has two main sources of support:

- (a) A limited number of University Fellowships, in particular Graduate Council Fellowships and Turner Fellowships, that support students for a total of five years, with one-half the fellowship time (five semesters) to be spent as a TA, and the other half allocated to non-teaching time.
- (b) Traineeships that carry up to four years of support, with all of the time (eight semesters) to be spent as a TA.

Both forms of support are contingent upon good standing and the passing of all reviews. These support sources apply immediately to students admitted to the Doctoral Program. Both forms of support include tuition waivers.

Students in need of a fifth year of support have often been successful in teaching for other programs or working as assistants in other sectors of the university (such as the Humanities Institute or the Honors Program).

H.6. Requests for Leaves of Absence

Graduate School policy discourages leaves of absence except for serious circumstances. Leaves are granted for a maximum of one year at a time, renewable upon request for the second year. The requests for a leave of absence must be addressed in writing to the GPC along with a brief statement on the reasons for the request. If approved by the GPC, the request is forwarded to the Graduate School with the DPD's signature.

As per Graduate School policy, during a leave of absence no work may be performed toward the degree, including consultations with faculty on matters related to such work. See the Graduate School Bulletin for details.

H.7. Grievance and Adjudication Procedures

These procedures apply to allegations of academic or professional misconduct. Allegations of sexual harassment must be reported to the University Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action.

H.7.a. Initial Hearings

The Department Chair and the DPD must convene a first hearing with all relevant parties within two weeks of receipt of a written grievance to attempt a resolution. These parties will usually include: the complainant (and supporter/advocate); the respondent (and supporter); and, if either the Chair or DPD is involved in any of these roles, another senior faculty member. If a resolution cannot be obtained through this first meeting, the Department Chair will nominate an Ad Hoc Grievance Committee.

H.7.b. Ad Hoc Grievance Committee

The Committee will consist of at least two faculty members. The Ad Hoc Grievance Committee will receive written documentation of the alleged violation and meet with the relevant parties. The Committee's decision on the disposition of the case will be sent to the relevant parties, the DPD, and the Department Chair. The committee may or may not recommend penalties.

H.7.c. Appeals to the Graduate School

Any party to the allegations who is dissatisfied with the process outlined above or with its outcome may appeal the program's decision in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School within two weeks of the conclusion of the departmental procedures. (See Graduate Bulletin for further details.)

H.8. Dismissal from the Graduate Program

The Department's dismissal procedure coincides with Graduate School Policy. Failure to pass the Second Year Review (the program's milestone requirement) is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Failure to pass the First Year and Third Year Reviews can lead to academic probation. A second semester of probation is sufficient for dismissal from the program.

At the discretion of the GPC, special contingencies may be considered and remedies recommended for making up deficiencies within short deadline periods (weeks, not months).

H.9. Changes in the Doctoral Program and Policies

The GPC must approve all changes in this handbook. As stated under A. above, any such changes that involve the curriculum and requirement structure of the doctoral program must be approved additionally by (i) the Philosophy Department faculty, in consultation with student representatives, and (ii) the Graduate School.

H.10. The Graduate Bulletin

For further information pertaining to graduate students' rights and responsibilities at Stony Brook, consult the Graduate Bulletin on the University website.

Appendices: Forms for First, Second and Third Year Review and Non-Seminar Requirements

[Attachments]