

PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIETY (M.A.)

Overview

The Master of Arts in Philosophy and Society (MAPS) trains students in Jesuit formation to analyze the human condition amidst and through the complex social, political, economic, and cultural contexts that characterize the contemporary global landscape. Its innovative and interdisciplinary curriculum leverages the best of the Catholic intellectual tradition and Fordham's disciplinary strengths in philosophy, theology, the social and natural sciences, the arts, and the humanities to advance knowledge and learning that promote faith and social justice. Through the program's integration of the Catholic tradition, contextually oriented ministry in solidarity with local communities, and interdisciplinary intellectual formation, this program challenges students to respond effectively to a world that needs well-formed minds and open hearts.

Admissions Guidelines and Information

GSAS will waive all application fees from members of the Society of Jesus to the M.A. in Philosophy and Society (MAPS) program.

Completed online application for the MAPS program will include each of the following items:

- Resume/CV (up to two pages in length, submitted via the online application)
- Official degree transcripts confirming prior degree conferral should be ordered at least one month prior to the application deadline. Please ensure that they are sent directly to the Office of Admissions (fuga@fordham.edu) via secure electronic delivery. If electronic delivery is not available, please request that your transcripts be submitted directly via post, in a sealed envelope, to: Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Office of Admissions, Fordham University, 441 E. Fordham Rd., Bronx, NY 10458. Please note: you may upload unofficial copies of your transcripts to your application while the Office of Admissions awaits receipt of your official transcripts.
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores: Due to the impact of COVID-19 on standardized testing, GRE scores for the M.A. program are optional for the 2021-2022 admissions cycle. Applicants who wish to submit GRE scores may do so, but scores are not required (scores should be sent directly by the testing service to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences – Code #2259)
- Statement of intent (up to 500 words, submitted electronically, via the online application)
- Writing Sample (5–20 pages in length, submitted electronically, via the online application)
- Three letters of recommendation (submitted directly by referees via the online application)

English Proficiency

International applicants whose native language is not English are required to complete and submit to GSAS prior to matriculation their official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). GSAS will also consider a student's International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Cambridge English Proficiency Level language

testing results and the Duolingo English Test (DET) as an assessment of your English competency.

Official TOEFL, IELTS, or DET scores should be sent directly by the testing service to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences – code #2259. Please consult the English Proficiency web page for additional information.

Exam	Score
TOEFL iBT	100
IELTS	7.0 band score
DET	120

Requirements

The M.A. in Philosophy and Society is a three-year, 69-credit program. See lists following the below grid for courses fulfilling the specified requirements.

Course	Title	Credits
Philosophical Core		
MAPS 5500	Introduction to Philosophical Inquiry	3
PHIL 5010	Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas	3
PHIL 5012	Introduction to St. Augustine	3
Three credits in Ancient Philosophy		3
Three credits in Early Modern Philosophy		3
Three credits in Contemporary Philosophy		3
Three credits in Ethics, Normative Ethics, and Natural Law		3
Contextual Analysis and Preparation for Ministry		
HIST 5924	Latin American History and Culture	3
MAPS 5100	Introduction to Contextual Learning and the Bronx	3
MAPS 5201	Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry I	1
MAPS 5202	Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry II	1
MAPS 5203	Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry III	1
PCGR 6440	Pastoral Counseling Skills	3
PMGR 6650	Ethics in Pastoral Ministry	3
Jesuit Studies		
MAPS 5301	History and Culture of the Jesuits I	1
MAPS 5302	History and Culture of the Jesuits II	1
MAPS 5303	History and Culture of the Jesuits III	1
Three credits in Navigating the Contexts of Mission		3
Theological Core		
THEO 5690	Church in Controversy	3
Three credits in Theologies of Gender and Sexuality		3
Cultural Context Modules		
MAPS 5401	Contours of the Ancient and Late Antique World ¹	1
MAPS 5402	Contours of the Late Medieval and Early Modern World ²	1
MAPS 5403	Contours of Modernity and Postmodernity ³	1
Interdisciplinary Core		
<i>Choose three credits from each of the following areas:</i>		
Justice and Human Rights		3

Race and Racism	3
Environmental Studies and Sciences ⁴	3
Electives⁵	6
<i>Choose at least six credits across Philosophical, Theological, and Interdisciplinary electives, following the discipline-specific credit requirements.</i>	
Philosophical Electives	
Theological Electives	
Interdisciplinary Electives	
Capstone	
MAPS 6000 Concluding Integration Capstone Seminar	3
Language Requirement⁶	
Reading knowledge of a language other than English	
Spanish language proficiency	
Total Credits	69

¹ This coursework should be completed when the student is studying Ancient Philosophy.

² This coursework should be completed when the student is studying Early Modern Philosophy.

³ This coursework should be completed when the student is studying Contemporary Philosophy.

⁴ Students without the requisite scientific background may be required to complete an additional basic science course.

⁵ Please see below requirements for discipline-specific credits that should guide students' choice of electives.

⁶ See below information regarding language requirement completion.

Discipline-Specific Credit Requirements

By the conclusion of the program, students must complete the three below credit requirements.

Philosophy Requirement

- A **minimum** of 30 **credits** in Philosophy (graduate courses with the subject code PHIL); MAPS 6000 Concluding Integration Capstone Seminar also counts towards this requirement

Theology Requirement

- A **minimum** of 24 **credits** across the following:
 - Theology (graduate courses with the subject code THEO)
 - Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education courses with the subject codes SPGR, RLGR, PCGR, REGR, and PMGR
 - Contextual Analysis and Preparation for Ministry courses (MAPS 5201 Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry I, MAPS 5202 Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry II, and MAPS 5203 Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry III do **not** count towards this requirement)

Interdisciplinary Requirement

- A **minimum** of 9 interdisciplinary **credits** across the following:
 - Cultural Context Modules (MAPS 5401 Contours of the Ancient and Late Antique World, MAPS 5402 Contours of the Late Medieval and Early Modern World, and MAPS 5403 Contours of Modernity and Postmodernity)
 - Any course on the list of Interdisciplinary courses (PSIC attribute)
 - Courses outside of Philosophy and Theology that fulfill Interdisciplinary Core requirements (Justice and Human Rights, Race and Racism, and Environmental Studies Sciences); these

courses, except for those in ENGL, HIST, and MVST (see below) all have the PSIC (Interdisciplinary Course) attribute

- Any graduate-level course with the subject codes ENGL, HIST (except for HIST 5924 Latin American History and Culture), or MVST

Language Requirement Completion

Students may fulfill the program's language requirement through one of the following:

(1) Successfully completing the program's Spanish language training, which is recorded by a passing grade in MAPS 0900 Spanish Language Proficiency, for which students register the summer prior to their study abroad experience.

(2) Demonstrating appropriate spoken, reading, and writing competence in a language relevant to the student's ministry (via successful completion of MAPS 0941 Language Proficiency), at the discretion of the Program Director.

Philosophical Core

Ancient Philosophy Courses

Courses in this group have the PSAP attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
PHIL 5001	Introduction to Plato	3
PHIL 5009	Introduction to Aristotle	3
PHIL 6025	Philosophy's Origins	3

Early Modern Philosophy Courses

Courses in this group have the PSEP attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
PHIL 5005	Classical Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 7106	Kant I	3
PHIL 7110	Descartes and Spinoza	3

Contemporary Philosophy Courses

Courses in this group have the PSCP attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
PHIL 6251	American Pragmatism	3
PHIL 7140	Kant and German Idealism	3
PHIL 7149	Hegel's Phenomenology	3
PHIL 7159	Kierkegaard	3
PHIL 7161	Nietzsche	3

Ethics, Normative Ethics, and Natural Law Courses

Courses in this group have the PSEN attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
PHIL 5003	Natural Law Ethics	3
PHIL 5114	Normative Ethical Theory	3
PHIL 6630	Discourse Ethics	3

Contextual Analysis and Preparation for Ministry

Navigating the Contexts of Mission Courses

Courses in this group have the PSNM attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
HUST 5013	Fundamentals of Humanitarian Action	3
HUST 5015	Information Management	3
PCGR 6410	Psychology and Religion/Spirituality	3
PCGR 7450	Trauma: Counseling and Ministry Issues	3
PHIL 5030	Topics in the Philosophy of Education: Education and Democracy	3
PHIL 6850	Hermeneutics	3
PMGR 6510	Theology of Ministry	3
PMGR 8530	Evangelization: Faith & Culture	3
REGR 6150	Foundations for Intercultural Ministry and Religious Education	3
SPGR 7870	Spiritual Direction: Theology and Practice	3
SPGR 7902	Ignatian Spirituality for Ministry	3
THEO 5500	Religion and American Public Life	3
THEO 6653	Church as Sacrament: A Study in Christian Sacraments and Ecclesiology	3

Theological Core

Theologies of Gender and Sexuality Courses

Courses in this group have the PSTG attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
THEO 6400	Theological Anthropology and Human Diversity	3
THEO 6676	Sexual Ethics	3

Interdisciplinary Core

Justice and Human Rights Courses

Courses in this group have the PSJH attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
CEED 5050	Ethics and Society: Cross Disciplinary Perspectives	3
HIST 5400	Gender and History	4
HIST 5411	Gender and Sexuality in Early America	4
HIST 5420	Sin, Crime and Sex in History	4
HIST 5506	European Nationalisms and Early Modern (Jewish) History	4
HIST 5517	Fascism	4
HIST 5731	History of Wealth & Poverty: U.S. and Comparative	4
HIST 5921	Social Movements in Global Perspective	4
HIST 5923	Atlantic World: Empires, Diasporas, and Migrations	4
HIST 6256	Torture and Western Culture	4

HIST 6726	The United States and Human Rights: An International History	4
HIST 6731	U.S. Immigration and Ethnicity	4
HUST 5012	Contemporary Issues in Humanitarian Action	3
HUST 5013	Fundamentals of Humanitarian Action	3
HUST 5015	Information Management	3
HUST 5035	Forced Migration: The Humanitarian Challenge of the Decade	0-3
HUST 5075	Leadership and Management in Humanitarian Assistance	0-3
HUST 5082	Integrity, Accountability and Transparency in Humanitarian Operations	0-3
HUST 5205	Children in Armed Conflict	3
HUST 5300	International Responses to Migration	3
HUST 5350	Climate Change in the West African Sahel: Impact on Water and Migration	3
HUST 5410	Gender Integration in Humanitarian Action	3
PHIL 5040	Topics in Latin American Philosophy: Philosophies of Liberation	3
PHIL 7760	Dimensions of Political Justice	3
REGR 6120	Education for Peace and Justice	3
THEO 6485	Doing Theology with Gustavo Gutiérrez: 50 years (1971–2021)	3
THEO 6505	Histories of Colonialism, Empire, Theology	3
THEO 6642	Political Theology	3
THEO 6740	Catholic Social Thought	3

Race and Racism Courses

Courses in this group have the PSRR attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 5025	Black Protest from Slavery to #BlackLivesMatter	3
HIST 5105	The Black Radical Tradition in Comparative Perspective: U.S. and the Caribbean	4
HIST 5410	Race and Gender in Modern America	4
HIST 5516	Nationalisms and Racisms in Modern Europe	4
PHIL 5250	Philosophies of Race	3
THEO 6634	Black Theologies and the Decolonial Option	3
THEO 6659	Latinx Theology	3
THEO 6721	African American Theological Ethics	3

Environmental Studies and Sciences Courses

Courses in this group have the PSEV attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
ECON 6460	Agriculture and Development	3
HIST 5563	Readings in Environmental History	4
HUST 5350	Climate Change in the West African Sahel: Impact on Water and Migration	3
THEO 6674	Ecological Theology	3
THEO 6731	Christian Ecological Ethics	3
THEO 6735	Ecological Ethics	3
THEO 7736	Bioethics	3

URST 5066	Urban Health and Environment	3
URST 5070	Environmental History of the American City	3

Electives

MAPS 8999 Independent Study may count as a Philosophical, Theological, or Interdisciplinary elective, with permission of the Program Director (depending on the content of the independent study).

Philosophical Electives

- Any graduate course with the subject code PHIL, not otherwise counted towards the program's requirements, may count as a Philosophical Elective.

Theological Electives

- Any graduate course with the subject code THEO, not otherwise counted towards the program's requirements, may count as a Theological Elective.
- Moreover, Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education courses with the subject codes SPGR, RLGR, PCGR, REGR, and PMGR may count as a Theological Elective.

Interdisciplinary Electives

- Any graduate-level course with the subject codes ENGL, HIST, or MVST, not otherwise counted towards the program's requirements, may count as an Interdisciplinary Elective.
- Moreover, the courses listed below may count as an Interdisciplinary Elective.

Courses in this group have the PSIC attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
CEED 5050	Ethics and Society: Cross Disciplinary Perspectives	3
CEED 5100	Healthcare Ethics	3
CEED 5600	Special Topics in Ethics and Society	3
CEED 5800	Moral Foundations of Capitalism	3
CEED 6290	Health Disparities and Social Inequalities	3
ECON 5105	Topics in Economic History	3
ECON 5260	Epidemics and Development Policy	3
ECON 5280	Urban Economics	3
ECON 5415	Gender & Economic Development	3
ECON 5450	Crises, Adjustment and Poverty	3
ECON 5600	Health and Development	3
ECON 5750	Game Theory	3
ECON 6440	Development Economics	3
ECON 6460	Agriculture and Development	3
ECON 6480	Environmental and Resource Economics	3
ECON 6490	Foreign Aid and Development	3
HUST 5012	Contemporary Issues in Humanitarian Action	3
HUST 5013	Fundamentals of Humanitarian Action	3
HUST 5015	Information Management	3
HUST 5035	Forced Migration: The Humanitarian Challenge of the Decade	0-3
HUST 5075	Leadership and Management in Humanitarian Assistance	0-3

HUST 5082	Integrity, Accountability and Transparency in Humanitarian Operations	0-3
HUST 5205	Children in Armed Conflict	3
HUST 5300	International Responses to Migration	3
HUST 5410	Gender Integration in Humanitarian Action	3
IPED 6000	Latin America: Current Trends	3
PMMA 5101	Freedom of Expression	3
PMMA 5102	Press, Politics, and Public Policy	3
PMMA 5103	Environment and the Media	3
PMMA 5104	Theories of Media, Culture, and Society	3
PMMA 5105	Media Ethics	3
PMMA 5106	Race, Gender, and Digital Media	3
PMMA 5140	Themes in Urban Public Policy and Power	3
PMMA 5201	Social Media and Civic Engagement	3
PMMA 5202	Digital Media and Social Responsibility	3
PMMA 5204	Civic Media	3
PMMA 5205	Social Entrepreneurship	3
PMMA 5207	Mapping Injustice	3
PMMA 6207	International Communication	3
PMMA 6209	Storytelling for Public Good	3
POSC 5140	Themes in Urban Public Policy and Power	3
POSC 5301	Modern Political Thought	3-4
POSC 5500	Comparative Pol Analysis	3
POSC 5600	Analysis of Int'l Pol	3
POSC 6530	Political Economy of Development	3
POSC 6552	Political Economy of the Middle East	3
POSC 6640	Pol of Global Econ Rel	3
PSYC 5200	Fixing Psychology's Replication Crisis	3
PSYC 6030	Trauma and Family Violence	3
PSYC 6066	History and Systems	3
PSYC 6290	Health Disparities and Social Justice in Research and Practice	3
PSYC 6310	Culture, Ethnicity, and Race	3
PSYC 6390	Global Mental Health	3
URST 5000	Issues in Urban Studies	3
URST 5020	Urban Political Processes	3
URST 5035	City and Climate Change	4
URST 5045	Informal Cities	3
URST 5066	Urban Health and Environment	3
URST 5070	Environmental History of the American City	3
URST 5090	Lincoln Center Arts	3
URST 5095	Space, Place, Immigrant Cities	3
URST 5140	Themes in Urban Public Policy and Power	3
URST 5252	Urban Theory and the Modern City	3