

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.

CIP Code

38.0101 - Philosophy.

You can use the CIP code to learn more about career paths associated with this field of study and, for international students, possible post-graduation visa extensions. Learn more about CIP codes and other information resources.

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

Submitted directly via the online application.

Official transcripts

Please be sure to order official final transcripts from all previously attended institutions confirming degree conferral (if applicable) at least one month before the posted application deadline. Transcripts should be sent directly from your prior institution(s) via secure electronic delivery to the Office of Admissions at fuga@fordham.edu.

If electronic delivery is not available, please request that your transcripts be submitted by postal service in a sealed envelope from the institution to:

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Office of Admissions
Keating Hall Room 216
Fordham University
441 E. Fordham Rd.
Bronx, NY 10458

Please note: We strongly recommend that you upload unofficial copies of your academic transcripts to your application while the Office of Admissions awaits receipt of your official transcripts.

Please ensure that all official transcripts from previously attended post-secondary institutions are submitted in English, or are accompanied by a certified English translation. For academic transcripts from institutions outside the United States, applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain a course-by-course credential evaluation. Transcripts and credentials conversion information is available on the GSAS International Students page.

Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores

GRE scores for the M.A. program are optional for the 2024 – 2025 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, submit via the online application.

Supplemental Essay (Optional)

You may choose to answer this optional essay question. Your answer will help the admission committee get a better understanding of your unique perspective and potential contributions to our community. Please discuss how your life experiences, perspective, or worldview have motivated or inspired you, posed challenges, helped you build skills, or taught you valuable lessons. We are eager to learn how these experiences have helped shape who you are and prepared you for graduate study, in keeping with our mission of "graduate education for the global good."

Writing Sample

5 - 20 pages in length, submit via the online application.

Three letters of recommendation

Submitted directly via the online application. Enter the following information for each of your recommendation providers: name, address, email address, phone number, and institution. Make sure you enter your recommenders' email addresses correctly so that they each receive an automated email instructing them on how to submit their recommendations online. Mark the waiver statement for each recommender you enter.

English Proficiency Requirements

International applicants whose native language is not English are required to complete and submit to GSAS prior to matriculation their official scores from one of the following accepted English language competency exams:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - GSAS accepts the following TOEFL tests:
 - TOEFL iBT (including the Home Edition and Paper Edition)
 - TOEFL Essentials
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Cambridge English Proficiency Level
- Duolingo English Test
- PTE Academic
- Cambridge English Qualifications - We accept the B2 First, C1 Advanced, or C2 Proficiency exams

Official TOEFL, IELTS, DET, PTE Academic, or Cambridge English Qualifications scores should be sent directly by the testing service to the

Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (our ETS TOEFL score code #2259).

Preferred minimum score requirements:

Exam	Score
TOEFL iBT	100
IELTS	7.0 band score
DET	120
PTE Academic	68
Cambridge English Qualifications	185 Overall Score on the B2, C1 Advanced, or C2 Proficiency exam

Exemptions to the English Language Requirement

Exemptions from this requirement can be requested by the applicant in her/his application, or can be made in writing by the applicant to fuga@fordham.edu. Exemptions are generally permitted for international applicants who:

- 1. are native English speakers from countries where English is an official language; and/or
- 2. have completed, within the past five years, at least two years of study at an undergraduate or graduate institution in the United States or in a country where English is the official language of instruction.

GSAS retains the right to request language evaluation from any applicant. The Fordham English Language Test (FELT), administered by Fordham’s Institute of American Language and Culture (IALC), may be required for those students whose English proficiency scores do not meet GSAS program requirements. Additional coursework may also be recommended by the IALC.

Students are permitted to register for two GSAS courses during the academic term in which they are completing any IALC-recommended coursework, which generally occurs during their first semester of study.

Please note: Tuition costs associated with the learning of English as a second language are the responsibility of the student and will not be covered by a GSAS tuition scholarship. GSAS merit-based tuition scholarships are not applicable to the costs of additional coursework recommended by the IALC.

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	Graduate Seminar: 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

Choose three credits from each of the following areas:	
Justice and Human Rights	3
Race and Racism	3
Environmental Studies and Sciences ⁴	3
Electives ⁵	6

Choose at least six credits across Philosophical, Theological, and Interdisciplinary electives, following the discipline-specific credit requirements.

Philosophical Electives	
Theological Electives	
Interdisciplinary Electives	

Capstone

MAPS 6000	Concluding Integration Capstone Seminar	3
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Language Requirement⁶

Reading knowledge of a language other than English	
Spanish language proficiency	

Total Credits	69
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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 5500 Introduction to Philosophical Inquiry and 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 5209	Ancient Philosophy	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
ENGL 5600	Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory & Criticism: Rhetoric, Race, and Identity	3
HIST 5460	Jesuits and Globalization	4
HUST 5013	Fundamentals of Humanitarian Action	0-3
HUST 5015	Information Management	0-3
PCGR 6410	Psychology and Religion/Spirituality	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
THEO 5500	Religion and American Public Life	3
THEO 6467	Mysticism and Modernity	3
THEO 6653	Church as Sacrament: A Study in Christian Sacraments and Ecclesiology	3
URST 5000	Issues in Urban Studies	3

Theological Core

Theologies of Gender and Sexuality Courses

Courses in this group have the PSTG attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
SPGR 7741	Spiritual Direction Practicum II	3
THEO 5640	Introduction to Theological Ethics	3
THEO 6400	Theological Anthropology and Human Diversity	3
THEO 6612	New Methods in Constructive Theology	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
ENGL 5600	Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory & Criticism: Rhetoric, Race, and Identity	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	0-3
HUST 5013	Fundamentals of Humanitarian Action	0-3
HUST 5015	Information Management	0-3
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	0-3
HUST 5410	Gender Integration in Humanitarian Action	3
PHIL 5040	Topics in Latin American Philosophy: Philosophies of Liberation	3

PHIL 6102	Human Rights	3
PHIL 7758	Human Dignity	3
PHIL 7760	Dimensions of Political Justice	3
PMMA 5208	Digital Media and Migrant Justice	3
POSC 5560	Conflict Resolution	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 and Praxis	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
ENGL 5600	Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory & Criticism: Rhetoric, Race, and Identity	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 5204	Medieval Environmental History	4
HIST 5563	Readings in Environmental History	4
HUST 5350	Climate Change in the West African Sahel: Impact on Water and Migration	0-3
THEO 6674	Ecological Theology	3
THEO 6731	Christian Ecological Ethics	3
THEO 6735	Ecological Ethics	3
THEO 7736	Bioethics	3
URST 5035	City and Climate Change	4
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 Justice in Research and Practice	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 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
HIST 5456	20th Century Catholic Cultural Revival	4
HIST 5457	20th-Century Jesuit Moderns: An Intellectual History	4
HUST 5012	Contemporary Issues in Humanitarian Action	0-3
HUST 5013	Fundamentals of Humanitarian Action	0-3
HUST 5015	Information Management	0-3
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	Digital Technology and 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	Global Media and 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 5560	Conflict Resolution	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