

ADVICE FOR OUR MAJORS

With the desiderata of brevity and efficiency in mind, listed here are various and sundry pieces of information to help you earn your B.A. in philosophy in a timely fashion.

THE BASICS

- (1) Please know that 30 hours (i.e., 10 classes) are required for a major in philosophy.
- (2) Please keep in mind the three required courses for the major. These are Logic (2110), Ancient (4010), and Modern (4020). Logic is offered every semester and Ancient and Modern are offered every year. Please also keep in mind that a B.A. degree requires four semesters of a foreign language.
- (3) Please make sure that you know who your advisor is. If you don't know this, email our secretary Terri Ferrell at tferrell@mtsu.edu. Please also make sure that you have turned in a declaration-of-major form to Ms. Ferrell. (This latter is especially important for our majors who are double-majoring or pursuing a dual degree.)
- (4) As you may already be aware, MTSU is switching away from SS#'s to M#'s for identification purposes. You will need to know your M# to register for classes.
- (5) Please make sure that we have your current email address. Terri is in the process of making an email list for our majors.

EXIT TESTS

Each person graduating with a major in philosophy will be required to take a Major Field Test. In our department, this means that each graduating senior must turn in a paper written for one of his or her philosophy classes. Please contact Dr. Magada-Ward and Dr. Hinz with any questions.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Several of you have already participated in undergraduate conferences, a trend we would like to see continue! We have done our best to publicize these conferences but the new email list should help us to better do so. Secondly, the McNair program is a wonderful (and generous!) opportunity for those of you intent on pursuing graduate study. (We have had at least three McNair scholars in the past and Dr. Purcell is our departmental liaison to the McNair Program.) Thirdly, there are opportunities for funding from the newly established Undergraduate Research Initiatives (e.g., URSCA). (One of our majors received a fairly substantial grant for her research into the Pro-Ana internet community.) Fourthly, for our female majors who are over the age of twenty-three, we encourage you to apply for the June S. Anderson scholarship. (This is a full tuition scholarship for women majoring in traditionally male-dominated fields and Dr. Magada-Ward is the president of the JSA Foundation.) Finally, there are some opportunities for study abroad programs. Please consult with your advisor if any of the opportunities listed above whet your interest! (Each also has a firm application deadline.)

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Those majors who are interested in pursuing advanced study – whether in philosophy or a related discipline – should initially consult with their advisors (and/or other members of the faculty) the spring of their junior year. Doing so will allow you to spend the summer before your senior year studying for your GREs (now very important) and researching departments that interest you. (Please remember, too, that philosophy is a small community. At least one of us should know something about any program that interests you.) If you would like to be in grad school the fall after you graduate, you will need to start putting together your dossier during the previous fall. In particular, you will need to get letters of recommendation and to work on a writing sample. Most graduate programs have application deadlines in January or February. Yet again, your advisor will be a big help in this endeavor.