

Philosophy- Neuroscience- Psychology, PhD

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Mentored Experience Implementation Plan

As part of their degree requirements, PhD students must complete a program-defined Mentored Experience Requirement (MER) as per these guidelines. The Mentored Experience Implementation Plan (MEIP) is the written articulation of a program-defined degree requirement for PhD students to engage in mentored teaching activities and/or mentored professional activities, collectively referred to as *MERs*.

Mentored Experience Requirements (MERs)

Philosophy of Teaching

Teaching is central to philosophy. The practice of philosophy has required dialogue with other practitioners and novices for about 2400 years, and there is no way to teach philosophy except by teaching the doing of philosophy. So an education in philosophy is unavoidably an education in how to engage others in philosophical inquiry. The PhD in philosophy is not viewed as a specific qualification for any job other than teaching university and college courses. So it is important to offer specific training to help young philosophers begin to learn how to engage others in philosophical inquiry in the specific formats that universities and colleges impose, where that is consistent with their educational and professional goals.

Preparatory Engagement

Preparatory Engagement activities are those that represent an introduction to the foundational skills associated with teaching or communication. Pedagogical preparation engagement activities are normally completed before students are permitted to engage in assisting or teaching in a classroom.

Philosophy and Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology PhD students are required to do two Preparatory Engagement activities:

1. All students are required to participate in the Center for Teaching and Learning's Teaching Orientation before their first Mentored Teaching Experience (MTE) engagement.
2. In any academic year in which they are doing an MTE, students are required to participate in an MTE Orientation organized in the Fall by the Graduate Teaching Coordinator in Philosophy.

Mentored Teaching Experiences (MTEs)

Assistant in Instruction (AI)

An Assistant in Instruction (AI) is a PhD student who is directly engaged in the organization, instruction, and/or support of a semester-long course *primarily taught by a faculty member*. An AI receives mentorship from a faculty member related to best practices in classroom engagement, instruction in the field, interpersonal engagement, and other relevant skills. Students and mentors complete a mentorship plan prior to the start of each AI experience. To complete each AI assignment and to ensure that it applies toward their degree requirements, students must register for the appropriate course number for each semester of engagement. Refer to the "Required Pathways for Completion" section below for course numbers and details.

Philosophy requires 60 MER units of AI engagement at 15 MER units each. AIs are normally expected to grade assignments, hold office hours, and deliver two observed guest lectures. AIs are assigned to various courses in Philosophy and Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology (PNP), normally at the 1000, 2000, or 3000 level. There are no restrictions on which courses can have an AI.

Ordinarily, students will complete their AIs in their second and third year of their PhD program. Thus, they should have expected to complete MER by the time that they advance to candidacy, and can spend their final years of fellowship focusing on the dissertation and research.

Required Pathways for Completion

Students work with their faculty mentor and their Director of Graduate Studies to plan how and when they will complete their MERs. Students register during the normal registration period for courses in accordance with one of these approved pathways.

ASGS 8015	Take four times
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