The Rice University graduate program in philosophy ensures that students will have a thorough acquaintance with the main fields of philosophy as well as a solid foundation for advanced research in a dissertation area. To encourage the close contact between students and faculty essential to these aims, the program is limited to approximately five entering Ph.D. students per year. The program as a whole typically enrolls about 29 Ph.D. students.

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree should expect to devote two years to full-time course work before taking a qualifying examination. The exam is typically administered during the first semester of the third year and covers the general area of philosophy in which the student plans to do his or her Ph.D. dissertation. Dissertation proposals should be completed by the end of the third year. A minimum of one additional year (and often two or more years) will be devoted to the completion of the Ph.D. dissertation. We have found that these time estimates generally apply even to students who enter the program after having completed work in other graduate programs in philosophy.

Faculty members in the department offer expertise across a broad range of philosophical specialties, with particular strengths in ethics (especially medical ethics), social and political philosophy, key areas of analytic philosophy and the history of philosophy.

**FACULTY/CURRENT RESEARCH**


GRADUATE STUDY IN PHILOSOPHY AT A GLANCE

Degrees awarded: Ph.D., master’s degree for partial completion of doctoral program
Fields of study: The graduate program trains students to teach and pursue research in the main areas of department concentration: ethics (especially medical ethics), social and political philosophy, history of philosophy and core areas of analytic philosophy.
Number of graduate students receiving financial aid: 21
Average award: $21,000
Faculty working with students: 13
Students: 29 graduate students, 24 undergraduate majors
Special programs offered by the department: medical ethics
Degree requirements for the Ph.D.: Candidates must complete with high standing 42 hours of course work approved by the department, demonstrate competence in logic, pass a qualifying examination, perform satisfactorily on an oral defense of their thesis proposal, complete a written thesis on a subject approved by the department (at least one year of thesis research must be spent in residence) and perform satisfactorily on a final oral examination.
Average number of years to complete the doctoral program: 6

Sophie P. Horowitz. Assistant Professor. Ph.D. (2014) Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Sophie works on epistemology, focusing on questions about epistemic normativity, rational self-trust and self-doubt, and the connection between rationality and truth. She is also interested in practical rationality, and in the relationship between the practical and epistemic realms.

Mark A. Kulstad. Professor. Ph.D. (1975) University of Michigan. Dr. Kulstad specializes in the history of early modern philosophy (especially Leibniz, but he also has published articles on Descartes, Spinoza and Locke). His books include *Leibniz on Apperception, Consciousness, and Reflection* (Philosophia, 1991) and *Central Themes in Early Modern Philosophy*, co-edited with J.A. Cover (Hackett, 1990). Among his articles are: “The One and the Many and Kinds of Distinctness: The POSSIBILITY


CORE ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

The department also has special strengths focused on the areas of philosophy of mind (especially consciousness and perception), philosophy of science (especially psychology and biology) and metaphysics. In addition to the philosophy faculty in these number of faculty in cognitive sciences, history, and psychology who share these research interests. The Mind & Perception Workshop hosts a rich program of visiting speakers each year from philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience, and the workshop on Cultural Studies of Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine provides additional speakers of interest. Rice is developing cooperative programs in neuroscience with the nearby Baylor College of Medicine.
ETHICS/SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

The Rice Philosophy Department has special strength in ethics, social and political philosophy, medical ethics and the history of these fields. Faculty members with main interests in the normative areas include Baruch Brody, Jennifer Blumenthal-Barby (adjunct), H. Tristram Engelhardt Jr. and George Sher. Faculty members with strong historical interests in the normative areas include Donald Morrison and Laurence McCullough (adjunct). Topics on which these faculty members have written include consequentialism, contractualism, desert, the common good, perfectionism, the neutral state, feminist ethics, research ethics, the foundations of tort law, problems in nonideal theory and the principles of bioethics. Given the department’s breadth of coverage, there are few areas of contemporary moral or political thought in which a student could not find expert guidance.

Program in Medical Ethics

Graduate students in philosophy with an interest in bioethics may pursue those interests in accordance with one of two plans.

Plan A: Traditional program in philosophy with an emphasis in bioethics

Following the normal Rice graduate program structure. In years one and two, students will take graduate courses in philosophy at Rice. Normally, they will take both of Dr. Brody’s graduate seminars (one on clinical ethics and one on research ethics) and the graduate version of Dr. Engelhardt’s advanced undergraduate courses (one on justice in healthcare and one on the concepts of disease and medical explanation). The rest of their courses should be chosen to fill gaps in their background in value theory and other areas of philosophy.

In the fall of year three, students will prepare for the comprehensive examination in modern normative ethics with an additional question in bioethics theory. In the spring semester, students will be expected to complete a thesis proposal, working in close collaboration with their thesis adviser. Theses can involve either an analytical or continental approach.

Plan B: Extensive training in clinical bioethics

Students interested in participating in this plan should apply to Dr. Brody no later than the beginning of their third year of studies. Students accepted into this plan will, in the second semester of year three, do three to four clinical rotations to familiarize themselves with the contemporary practice of medicine, a reading seminar with Dr. McCullough on the historical foundations of bioethics and a reading seminar with the staff of the Center for Ethics on the legal foundations of bioethics.

In addition to performing thesis work, students in this plan will be offered ample opportunities to experience the realities of clinical ethics work (by attending meetings of ethics committees and IRBs, participating in clinical teaching experiences and observing ethics consultations). Students will be offered the opportunity to do a limited amount of teaching in medical school courses at Baylor. Finally, they will be given the opportunity to participate in Baylor training programs for those wanting to do empirical research.

Students Who Have Completed Our Program

Kay Toombs, Baylor University; Becky White, California State University, Chico; Kevin Wildes, president of Loyola University; Sarah Vaughan Brakman, Villanova University; David Schwartz, Randolph-Macon College; Mark Cherry, St. Edwards University in Austin; Rui-Ping Fan, City University of Hong Kong; Lian Cheng, Beijing University; Maureen C. Kelley, University of Washington School of Medicine; Ana Smith-Itlis, Wake Forest University; Janet Malek, East Carolina Medical School and Lisa Rasmussen, University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

Another strength of the Rice University Ph.D. program in philosophy is the history of philosophy, particularly in the areas of German philosophy (from the Leibniz to Heidegger and beyond), and also in the history of early modern philosophy. This special focus is made possible in part by links with faculty in allied departments at Rice and with historians of philosophy at the University of Houston. Given the four history of philosophy specialists in the philosophy department (focusing on ancient, Leibniz, Kant and Hegel, Husserl and Heidegger), the two or three other department faculty with significant interests in the history of philosophy, and the seven faculty members in allied departments specializing on key historical philosophies (including, among others, ancient, Descartes, Spinoza, Kant, Herder and Nietzsche) the opportunities in the history of philosophy are striking.

Students Who Have Completed Our Program

David Clemenson, University of St. Thomas; Susanna Goodin, University of Wyoming; Richard Reilly, Blinn College; Alan Schwerin, Monmouth University; Candice Shelby, University of Colorado at Denver; Mark Thoma, Blinn College; and Irene McMullin, University of Arkansas.

Further inquiries and requests for applications should be addressed to:

Rice University
Philosophy Graduate Admission
Philosophy Department–MS 14
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892
Phone: 713-348-4994
Fax: 713-348-5847
E-mail: philos@rice.edu

SPEAKERS FOR 2013–14

Sara Bernstein – Duke University
Thomas Blanchard – Rutgers University
Helen Batt – University of Houston
Sophie Horowitz – Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Evelyn Keyes – Texas Court of Appeals, First District
John Kulpvicki – Darmouth College
Elizabeth Miller – Harvard University
Lisa Miracchi – Rutgers University
Samuel Newlands – University of Notre Dame
Jacob Ross – University of Southern California
Catherine Wilson – University of York
Marco Zingano – University of Sao Paulo

Lone Star Tour
Joseph Rouse – Wesleyan University

HRC Mind and Perception Workshop Series
Imogen Dickie – University of Toronto

Ethics, Politics and Society Lecture Series
Christine Korsgaard – Harvard University

Gender and Diversity Workshop
Carrie Fidgor – University of Iowa
Rachel McKinnon – College of Charleston
CAMPUS VISIT
We encourage you to visit Rice at any time for a firsthand look at the department and the beautiful, tree-lined campus near the heart of historic Houston. Please feel free to contact the department with any questions you may have about its programs or the university.

ADMISSION
The program admits only those students planning to take courses on a full-time basis and to work toward the Ph.D. degree. All applications should include the university application forms, at least four letters of reference, transcripts, GRE scores and a sample of the applicant’s philosophical writing. We strongly encourage applications from women and from members of minority groups. All material should be received by February 1. Further inquiries and requests for applications should be addressed to:

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Houston, Texas 77251-1892

Web site: philosophy.rice.edu
E-mail: philos@rice.edu
Phone: 713-348-4994
Fax: 713-348-5847

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
The department generally offers five years of fellowship support to all students admitted, with stipends currently set at $21,000 per year and a full tuition waiver. A number of President’s Fellowships, which carry a stipend of $22,450 plus tuition waiver, also are available on a university-wide competitive basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION . . .
Rice University homepage:
www.rice.edu
Rice University Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies homepage:
gs.graduate.rice.edu
Graduate Student Association homepage:
gsa.rice.edu
City of Houston homepage:
www.houstontx.gov
Houston information from the Houston Chronicle:
www.chron.com
Houston information from the Greater Houston Partnership:
www.houston.org
Houston information from Citysearch:
houston.citysearch.com

As urban as it is, Houston is a surprisingly green city. Houstonians enjoy the outdoors in more than 300 municipal parks and, and many frequent the beach at Galveston Island, only a 45-minute drive away. Other short trips include Austin, the state’s capital, and historic San Antonio, both of which are a little more than three hours away.

ABOUT RICE AND HOUSTON
Rice is a leading American research university—small, private and highly selective—distinguished by a collaborative, interdisciplinary culture and a global perspective. Only a few miles from downtown Houston, it occupies an architecturally distinctive, 285-acre campus shaded by nearly 4,000 trees. State-of-the-art facilities and laboratories, internationally renowned centers and institutes and one of the country’s largest endowments support an ideal learning and living environment.

The university attracts a diverse group of highly talented students and faculty with outstanding graduate and professional programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, architecture, music and business. With just 2,374 graduate students and 3,708 undergraduates, it offers an unusual opportunity to forge close relationships with eminent faculty scholars and researchers and the option to tailor graduate programs to specific interests.

Houston offers all the expected educational, cultural and commercial advantages of a large urban center, and more. It’s home of the Texas Medical Center, the largest concentration of medical schools, hospitals and research facilities in the world, as well as several other universities. Rice has cooperative programs with the University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas Health Science Center and Texas Southern University. Houston is one of the few U.S. cities with resident companies in all four major performing arts—drama, ballet, opera and symphony. It also boasts a museum district featuring exhibits of national and international prominence.