Philosophy Department Logic Requirement

The philosophy department PhD curriculum includes a distribution requirement in Logic (Group E). This requirement can be met in any of the following three ways: by taking PHIL 72000, by taking an advanced logic course (for which PHIL 72000, or its equivalent, would be a prerequisite), or by passing a qualifying exam. These three ways of satisfying the departmental logic requirement are described below.

1. **Completion of PHIL 72000.** PHIL 72000 is an introduction to formal logic. It assumes no prior background in logic. The course covers first-order predicate logic with identity. It also covers some topics in the philosophy of logic. PHIL 72000 is offered every year in the fall term. To satisfy the departmental requirement by taking PHIL 72000, a student must pass the course with a grade of B+ or better.

PHIL 72000 is recommended for students with no prior background in logic. It is also recommended for students who have taken an introductory course in logic that did not include either natural deduction or trees as methods of proof. The course is also recommended for students who took an introductory logic course several years prior to beginning the philosophy PhD program and who feel a need to brush up on their skills.

2. **Completion of a more advanced logic course.** The philosophy department regularly offers advanced courses in logic, normally in the spring semester. These include courses in modal logic, non-classical and multi-valued logics, metalogic, and philosophical logic. In addition to the course offerings in the department, advanced logic courses are offered in the mathematics and computer science departments at The Graduate Center. After successful completion of the first year of the PhD program, students have the option of taking courses at consortium schools in New York City. Both NYU and Columbia University are members of the consortium and regularly offer advanced logic courses.

Satisfaction of the logic requirement by completion of an advanced course is recommended for students who have recently completed a logic course at the level of PHIL 72000 or higher and who are interested in doing more advanced work in logic.

3. **Qualifying Exam in Logic.** The qualifying exam in logic is offered once a semester upon request by one or more students in the PhD program. To pass the qualifying exam, the student must earn a grade of B+ or better. A student who wishes to take the logic qualifying exam should make arrangements with either the Executive Officer or the Deputy Executive Officer. A sample exam is on file in the philosophy department office. If a student fails the exam on the first attempt, the exam may be taken a second time. There is no penalty for failing the exam, and the failure is not recorded on the exam taker’s transcript. If the exam is failed a second time, the exam taker must petition to take the exam again. Approval to take the exam after two prior failures may be granted by the Executive Officer.

The qualifying exam is recommended for students who have competence in logic and do not wish to take more advanced courses in the subject.