The UW Philosophy Department offers a two year M.A. program, with an emphasis on work in the core areas of contemporary analytic philosophy as well as providing students with a strong historical foundation. General areas of study include epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, philosophy of language, ethics, the history of philosophy, and environmental philosophy. We have particular strengths in epistemology, the philosophy of mind, and environmental ethics.

The program has an extremely favorable faculty to student ratio (effectively 1:1), so students have the opportunity to work very closely with an enthusiastic, research-active faculty mentor, and in general, to learn in a challenging and supportive environment.

Our program is lively and collegial. Students won’t encounter turf wars or academic hierarchies. Instead, they encounter hallways lively with discussion, and they are encouraged to work with each other and the full complement of professors. Students are invited to all department functions, and have special sessions with visiting speakers.

We have a vibrant colloquium series, where students can interact with some of the most important and influential philosophers of our time. Past speakers include George Bealer, David Chalmers, Ron Giere, Allison Jagger, Thomas Pogge, Chris Shields, Eliot Sober. We have a very successful placement record, with students going on to Ph.D. work at Rutgers, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ohio State, University of California at Davis, University of Nebraska, and Rice.

The departments provides its graduate students with office space, a computer lab, support for travel to conferences, a moving and book stipend, and partial coverage of application fees to Ph.D. programs.

Programs of Study

The department offers seminars and individualized instruction in several areas of philosophy leading to the Master of Arts degree. The primary aim of the M.A. program is to prepare students to enter top-flight doctoral programs in philosophy. The program of study includes 27 semester hours of graduate-level courses and an additional nine hours of thesis research. We encourage our students to develop and submit their seminar papers to graduate conferences and journals.

Preparation for College Teaching

Through University and departmental programs, graduate assistants have the opportunity to develop as teachers through classroom experience. All assist the department as graders or discussion leaders in lecture courses with substantive, though not onerous, responsibilities.

Full Financial Aid

A limited number of two-year teaching assistantships and tuition waivers are available on a competitive basis. These assistantships provide students with a tuition waiver, health insurance, and currently pay a yearly stipend of $11,349. They give students the freedom to pursue their studies with greater focus than would be possible in programs geared primarily to the production of PhDs or those providing nominal financial support for their M.A. candidates.

The University and Community

Located in Laramie, The University of Wyoming is one of the major research universities in the Rocky Mountain region. It has a total enrollment of around 13,000 students, approximately 1/6 of whom are graduate students. It has excellent facilities and research support, and free computing facilities throughout the campus.

Laramie, a college town of 27,000, is located on the high plains, at the foot of the Medicine Bow Mountains, which offer hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, snow-shoeing and skiing. It is approximately 65 miles from Ft. Collins, CO, and 130 miles from Denver. The town is graced by 300 days of sunlight per year, and an abundance of summer and winter recreational opportunities. Laramie has many campus-based cultural activities, such as those provided by the Fine Arts Cultural Program.