

# Placement Record

Virginia Tech's MA program in philosophy opened its doors in the fall of 1993, and graduated its first students in 1995. Most of our students come to us with the intention of going on to a Ph.D. program in Philosophy. In most cases, their undergraduate backgrounds are insufficient for them to have a good chance of admission to high quality Ph.D. programs right away, and we serve as a stepping stone for them. As the following table shows, we have been highly successful in preparing our students for entry into leading Ph.D. programs in philosophy (and in other disciplines as well).

**93%** of students who have applied to Ph.D. programs have gained *admission with funding* (91% with *full* funding, 2% with partial funding).<sup>1</sup> We have placed students in a variety of leading Ph.D. programs, including:

**Princeton, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, The University of Texas, Notre Dame, The University of Toronto, UCSD, UCI, The University of Wisconsin,** and the **University of Maryland**, among many others (including a number of comparable programs declined in favor of the above in cases of multiple acceptances). See tables in the following pages for our complete placement record, from 1995-2007.

Some students come to us uncertain whether they wish to go on to further graduate studies in philosophy. Our program serves a transitional function for some of these. Those who do not stay in Philosophy have gone into a variety of careers, some academic (in Anthropology and English, for example), and others non-academic (in computer-related fields, editing, education, NGOs, and various other professions). We are proud of our placement record for both groups of students.

Summary figures for graduation rates:

- Total number of students who have graduated from the program: **72**.
- Average number of students graduating per year: over the life of the program: **5.5**; in the past five years: **8**.

2007: 8	2003: 5	1999: 5	1995: 4
2006: 8	2002: 6	1998: 3	
2005: 9	2001: 6	1997: 5	
2004: 10	2000: 1	1996: 2	

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<sup>1</sup> 43 people have applied to Ph.D. programs, of whom 39 gained admission with full funding, 1 with partial funding, and 3 did not secure admission with funding.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Thesis Title</b>	<b>Applied to Ph.D. Program?</b>	<b>Graduate School OR Employment</b>
2007	A Modifier-Based Philosophy of Whole Number	Yes	Princeton University Ph.D., fully funded
2007	Non-thesis option	No	UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine
2007	Non-thesis option (degree completed 2006)	Yes	Michigan State Ph.D., fully funded
2007	Between Hull and a Hard Core: Varying Patterns in the Evolution of the Darwinian Research Tradition	No; may apply next year	Instructorship at VT for 2007-08
2007	Creating a Community of Equals: Luck Egalitarianism, Democratic Equality, and the Significance of the Choice/Circumstance Distinction	Yes	Instructorship at VT for 2007-08
2007	Non-thesis option	No	U.S. Army (cont.)
2007	Non-thesis option	No	Private Sector
2007	Non-thesis option	No	Private Sector
2007	Non-thesis option	No	Private Sector
2006	Scientific Realism and the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements	Yes	Duke University Ph.D.; fully funded
2006	Non-thesis option	Yes	Univ. of Wisconsin Ph.D.; fully funded
(2006)	(*Visiting graduate fellow three semesters; non-degree)	(Yes)	(University of Toronto, Ph.D.; fully funded)
2006	On the Moral Legitimacy of States and the Morality of Killing in War	No	Private sector
2006	Non-thesis option	No	U.S. Air Force (cont.)
2006	Non-thesis option	No	Continued study toward School of Veterinary Medicine
2006	Non-thesis option	No	Teaching at New River Community College
2006	Non-thesis option	No	University Library

2005	Non-thesis option	Yes	University of Toronto, Ph.D., fully funded
2005	Non-thesis option	Yes	University of Washington, Seattle, Ph.D., fully funded
2005	Non-thesis option	Yes	Teaching Philosophy at Ulster Co. Community College
2005	Understanding Dead Languages	No	Computer Programming
2005	Non-thesis option	No	U.S. Dept. of Treasury
2005	Non-thesis option	Yes	University of British Columbia, Ph.D., fully funded
2005	Experience and Pictorial Representation	Yes	Washington University; Fully Funded
2005	Non-thesis option	No	Politics
2005	Non-thesis option	Yes	ASPECT certificate program, transitioning to Ph.D., Virginia Tech
2004	Animating the EPR-Experiment: The Case for Objectivity in the Search for Bell Violations	Yes	Columbia University, Ph.D., fully funded
2004	Objectivity in Feminist Philosophy of Science	Yes (Classics)	Duke University, Classics, Ph.D., fully funded
2004	Non-thesis option	Yes	Emory University, Ph.D., fully funded
2004	Non-thesis option	Yes	Virginia Tech STS, Ph.D., fully funded
2004	Pragmatic Epistemology, Community, and the Problem of Solipsism	No	Univ. of Indiana Law School
2004	Non-thesis option	No	Univ. of Kansas Law
2004	Non-thesis option	No	U.S. Air Force
2004	Non-thesis option	No	Private sector
2003	Non-thesis option (completed 2002)	Yes	Cornell University, Ph.D., Fully funded
2003	Non-thesis option	Yes	U. of California, Irvine, Ph.D. Fully funded.
2003	Respecting Citizens, Protecting Capabilities: The Role of the State in a Liberal Society	Yes (for J.D. and philosophy)	University of Maryland, Ph.D., Education Policy and Social Foundations. Fully Funded
2003	Non-thesis option	No	Private sector
2003	Non-thesis option	Yes	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign,

			Ph.D., Educational Policy Studies, fully funded
2002	Non-thesis option (completed in 2001)	Yes	University of Texas, Austin, Ph.D. Fully funded
2002	Non-thesis option (Completed summer 2003)	Yes	U of California, San Diego, Ph.D. Fully funded.
2002	Non-thesis (Completed spring 2004)	Yes	U of Notre Dame, Ph.D. Fully funded.
2002	Non-thesis option (completed summer 2003)	Yes	CUNY Graduate Center, Ph.D. Partially funded, declined.
2002	The Argument from Species Overlap	No	Private Sector; applying to law schools
2002	The Moral Status of Non-human Animals	No	Teaching and Administration, Private School
2002	Non-thesis option	Yes	Ph.D. in STS, now in Post Doc at Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
2002	Non-thesis option	No	Teaching Ethics, West Point
2001	Contractarianism and Moderate Morality	Yes	University of Maryland, Ph.D. Fully funded.
2001	Rawls, Liberalism, and Leisure	Yes	UVA Ph.D. Fully funded.
2001	Non-thesis option	No	Private Sector
2001	The Ontology of Persistence	Yes	Syracuse University, Ph.D. Fully funded
2001	A Solution to "The Problem of Socrates" in Nietzsche's Thought: An Explanation of Nietzsche's Ambivalence Toward Socrates (S, 2004)	Yes	DePaul, Ph.D. Fully funded.
2001	Nietzsche's Notes, Nietzsche's 'Philosophy'	Yes	Private Sector
2000	Sextus Empiricus and the Skeptic's Beliefs (Thesis Completed 2002)	Yes (English)	Ohio University, Ph.D., English. Fully funded.

2000	No Degree	Yes	Univ. of Washington, Ph.D. Fully funded.
1999	The Tension Between Falsificationism and Realism	No	Private Sector, editorial position, Cadmus Press
1999	Socrates' Conception of Knowledge and the Priority of Definition	No	Cato Institute; George Mason U., Ph.D. (Econ), awarded full funding.
1999	Explanations of the Success of Science	No	Computer company
1999	Royce and Perry on Idealism and Realism	Yes	University of Utah, Ph.D., fully funded
1999	Kant's Doctrine of Schemata	No	MPA VA Tech.; now working for an NGO
1998	Situated Cognition, Dynamicism, and Explanation in Cognitive Science	Yes	Washington University, St. Louis, Ph.D. Fully funded.
1998	Soldiers, Self-Defense, and Killing in War	No	Ethics Faculty, West Point
1998	Empirical Meaning and Incomplete Personhood	Yes	Philosophy, now Anthro., U. of Illinois, Chicago, Ph.D. Fully funded.
1997	Non-thesis option	No	Computer Company
1997	Kant's Critical Attitude Towards The Only Possible Argument	Yes	Emory Ph.D. Fully funded.
1997	Quality and Competence: An Analysis of the Role of Mill's Qualitative Hedonism on his Conception of Representative Democracy	Yes	University of Virginia Law and Philosophy, J.D./Ph.D. Fully funded in Philosophy.
1997	Non-thesis option	Yes	U. of Kentucky, Ph.D. Fully funded.
1997	Hyperadaptation—Another Missing Term in the Science of Form	No	Private Sector.
1996	Meaning, Functions, and the Promise of Indicator Semantics	Yes	Offered funding; chose computer engineering in the private sector
1996	Autonomy and Neutrality in Liberal Political Thought	Yes	University of Illinois, Chicago, Ph.D. Fully funded.
1995	Regarding Descartes' Meditations as Meditational	Yes	Purdue, Ph.D. Fully funded.
1995	Descartes and Tradition: the Miracle of	Yes	VA Tech, STS, Ph.D. Fully funded.

	the Eucharist		
1995	Ludwik Fleck and his Concept of a Scientific Fact	Yes	Northwestern Ph.D. Fully funded.
1995	The Role of Welfare in an Egalitarian Metric	Yes	University of Kentucky, Ph.D. Fully funded.