Philosophy Honors Program

The CCNY Philosophy Honors Program is designed to offer students the opportunity to carry out a rigorous research project that goes beyond the standard requirements of the major. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, students admitted to the Philosophy Honors Program will write a thesis, which will require sustained research on a specialized topic of their choice. While the program is open to any eligible students, it will be particularly valuable for students planning to apply to graduate programs, especially if the applications require writing samples.

Who is eligible to apply?
Philosophy majors with a 3.5 or higher GPA (in major) and 3.0 or higher GPA (overall), who have taken at least two 300-level Philosophy courses are eligible to apply. All qualified students, and especially those who plan to attend graduate school, are urged to apply for admission to the Philosophy Honors Program.

How can I apply?
To apply submit the following items in one (1) email to Mrs. Zeigler-Pickens, the secretary of the Philosophy Department, and Professor Ritchie, the Philosophy Department Advisor:

1. a cover sheet with your name, email address, and student identification number,
2. a personal statement, addressed to the Philosophy Honors Committee, of no more than 500 words describing why you want to join the program and your main research interests in philosophy,
3. a current transcript, and
4. the name of at least one Philosophy faculty member who has agreed to serve as a reference.

When are applications due?
Application deadlines are November 10th in the fall semester and March 10th in the spring semester.

What are the requirements to earn honors in philosophy?

A) GPA Requirement: To earn honors you must have at least a 3.5 GPA in Philosophy and a 3.0 Overall GPA upon graduation.

B) Honors Thesis Requirement: Students must complete an Honors Thesis over the course of two semesters. Philosophy Honors students must find a faculty mentor willing to direct their project. The mentor cannot be a part-time adjunct faculty member. During the first semester of the 2-semester thesis writing
process students will carry out research and develop a thesis proposal. The proposal must be submitted and approved by their mentor. The proposal should not exceed 1,500 words and must be accompanied by a bibliography. During the remainder of the first semester and during the second semester the student must complete a thesis. The thesis should be approximately 5,000 words (not including a bibliography and footnotes). To receive honors, the student's faculty mentor must approve the thesis. Students who have their theses approved will have the opportunity to present their research at a department colloquium at the end of the spring semester.

During the first semester in which students are working on the thesis, they must register for a 3-credit Philosophy Honors course PHL 30100—Honors I. During the second semester they must register for PHL 30200—Honors II. Both require mentor approval.