

Program Name Philosophy

Program Mission The basic objectives of the Philosophy Department are: (1) to inspire the student to confront the philosophical problems implicit in the experience of self, others and the universe, together with the question of their relations to ultimate transcendence (God and immortality); (2) to develop in the student habits of clear, critical thinking within the framework of both an adequate philosophical methodology and accepted norms of scholarship; (3) to introduce the student to reading critically the great philosophers, past and present, and (4) finally, to help the student to formulate for himself or herself a philosophy of life or world-view consistent with the objectives of liberal education at a Catholic university.

Referring to your annual assessment reports, please reflect on and report any changes or improvements you have made to your program as a result of evidence you have gathered

The Philosophy Department, due in part to annual assessment reports, will convene to discuss and consider possible changes to the Philosophy Major as a whole, especially in light of assessment. These changes include the possibility of restructuring courses offered and the consideration of certain requirements for certain courses (e.g. on the 400 level). Furthermore, the Department will also discuss certain courses offered in the GE core (PHIL 120 & PHIL 210). As of now no changes were made, nor does the Philosophy Department necessarily plan on making changes. The Department is however committed to discussion of its program vis-a-vis assessment.

Curriculum

The curriculum provides more than one opportunity for students to meet the Program Learning Objectives

Which key courses and assignments does the program use to ensure that students are meeting these program learning outcomes?

All courses offered in the Philosophy Program require the meeting of at least one of the student learning outcomes. In particular, however, are the courses offered by the Department for the GE Core, which typically meet more than one of these requirements. For example, GOAL 1 (Students will develop a crucial understanding of major traditions and contemporary ideas in the field of philosophy) and its subgoals are met by all PHIL 120 courses; GOAL 2 (Students will learn to understand and apply concepts and theories of moral philosophy) and its subgoals are met by all PHIL 210 courses. Key assignments used to assess these goals are written examinations, quizzes, written papers, and oral examinations.

Program Learning Outcomes to be Assessed

Program Philosophy

Program Learning Outcome

Program Goal IV: Students will acquire the abilities to read, evaluate and respond critically to intellectual material from any discipline.

How will you collect and analyze the evidence that students are meeting the PLO (e.g. Review aggregate scores on embedded questions; review scores on standardized tests; use a rubric to score samples of student writing).

Where in the program does the evidence reside? Evidence can reside in a particular course, sections of a particular course, or outside of courses (e.g. survey of graduates)

Is the evidence direct or indirect Direct evidence is actual student outputs, which can be analyzed or aggregated using quantitative or qualitative methods. Indirect is secondary information, such as perceptions, attitudes, or self-ratings.

What tools are necessary to collect evidence? (Rubrics, Portfolio, Embedded Exam Questions etc.)

Are there benchmarks that you will use to interpret your results? Benchmarks are associated with quantitative evidence and can be determined based on disciplinary norms or previous results on the same assignment, survey, etc.

Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

1).Develop a critical understanding of major traditions and contemporary ideas in the field of philosophy:

How will you collect and analyze the evidence that students are meeting the PLO (e.g. Review aggregate scores on embedded questions; review scores on standardized tests; use a rubric to score samples of student writing).

Data will be collected and analyzed by way of papers, written exams, and oral examinations using a qualitative rubric.

Where in the program does the evidence reside? Evidence can reside in a particular course, sections of a particular course, or outside of courses (e.g. survey of graduates)

Evidence resides in both particular courses (but can reside in sections of a particular course).

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The evidence is direct using actual student outputs, which are analyzed using qualitative methods by the instructor.

What tools are necessary to collect evidence? (Rubrics, Portfolio,Embedded Exam Questions etc.)

Embedded exam questions, paper prompts, essay prompts, and oral examination questions.

Are there benchmarks that you will use to interpret your results? Benchmarks are associated with quantitative evidence and can be determined based on disciplinary norms or previous results on the same assignment, survey, etc.

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Program Philosophy

Program Learning Outcome

1a).Students will read and critically assess the work of central thinkers in the history of philosophy.

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

1b).Students will explore and understand the historical development of major philosophical ideas.

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

1c).Students will develop a critical understanding of various key concepts in philosophy such as truth, meaning, reality, mind,the good, beauty, and political authority.

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

2). Learn to understand and apply concepts and theories of moral philosophy:

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

2a).Students will learn to identify and evaluate ethical principles, values and traditions of moral reasoning.

How will you collect and analyze the evidence that students are meeting the PLO (e.g. Review aggregate scores on embedded questions; review scores on standardized tests; use a rubric to score samples of student writing).

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

2b).Students will learn to identify and evaluate critically the ethical foundations of key social institutions and professions with a view toward social justice.

How will you collect and analyze the evidence that students are meeting the PLO (e.g. Review aggregate scores on embedded questions; review scores on standardized tests; use a rubric to score samples of student writing).

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

3).Acquire the skills to write and speak effectively about philosophy and other subjects:

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

3a).Students will learn to recognize what constitutes relevant material and support for ideas.

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

3b).Students will learn to organize and to develop material in a well-reasoned manner.

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

3c).Students will learn to communicate ideas clearly with adequate definition and illustration both in writing and in speech.

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

4).Acquire the abilities to read, evaluate and respond critically to intellectual material from any discipline:

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

4a).Students will learn to give fair treatment to views and values present in intellectual materials from other disciplines.

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

4b).Student will learn to identify the main thesis in any discourse and to evaluate its supporting evidence.

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Program Philosophy**Program Learning Outcome**

4c).Students will learn to detect presuppositions, value judgments and generalizations, and to evaluate their implications.

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