

Department of Philosophy
ASSESSMENT PLAN

Approved October 1, 2014

Program Goals for Majors

The Department of Philosophy at Illinois State University offers a major and minor in Philosophy and a minor in Religious Studies. We seek to provide our majors with a strong undergraduate education in philosophy, to help them develop effective critical analysis and written and oral communication skills, and to help them become informed and engaged citizens.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with a Philosophy B.A. will be able to:

- Display knowledge of core philosophical topics and issues
- Communicate philosophical ideas in an organized and coherent manner
- Exhibit clear ability in critical and creative thinking
- Read philosophical texts in a critical and sympathetic way

These outcomes are consistent with the department's overall Mission and Program Goals, the Goals and the Shared Learning Outcomes of the General Education program at ISU, *Educating Illinois*, and the Mission and Vision statements of the College of Arts and Sciences.

A. Assessment Committee.

An Assessment Committee (AC) will be formed comprising of three elected faculty members. The election procedure for the AC will follow the same procedure used to elect individuals to the DFSC. The AC will report to the Department Chair. One of the faculty members will serve as committee chair for a two-year period; the other two faculty members will serve for a period of one year. A faculty member cannot serve on the DFSC and as chair of the AC concurrently. The AC will prepare an annual report to be submitted to the department chair in May of each year. The report will describe the assessment process undertaken during the current academic year and provide a summary and recommendations.

B. Assessment Procedures

1. Direct Assessment

(i) Assignments

The Assessment Committee will collect completed student final assignments in the following courses: PHI 101, PHI 254 and PHI 3xx. It is proposed that 25% of final assignments submitted will be collected (though this decision is within the jurisdiction of the AC). All information identifying the particular student will be removed from the assignment. The committee will review the assignments to assess how well the program's student learning outcomes are being met.

(ii) Student Achievement

The AC will include in the report details of any notable student achievements, for example, presentations at workshops or conferences, scholarships, fellowships or other awards. The AC will communicate with philosophy majors and minors, faculty, and the chair to solicit information about student achievements and awards.

2. Indirect Assessment

During the spring semester the Assessment Committee will review materials from the following surveys:

(i) Philosophy majors who are in their senior year will be asked to complete an anonymous student self-assessment survey. The survey will include a number of items pertaining to the following questions:

- Is the program meeting your own academic goals and interests?
- Is the program meeting the stated Student Learning Outcomes?

(ii) Philosophy majors who are in their final semester will be asked to participate in an optional focus group with members of the AC.

(iii) Graduates of the program will be asked to complete an anonymous survey within the first year after graduation. The survey will include a number of items seeking the student's input about:

- Quality and quantity of courses
- Learning environment and experience
- Advising and mentoring