

Department of Philosophy ASSESSMENT PLAN

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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 major in Philosophy 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.

The Assessment Committee (AC) will be composed of three members. One member will always be the Department's academic advisor, who will serve as an *ex officio* member. The other two members will be tenure-track faculty who have been elected to serve. The election procedure for the AC will follow the same procedure used to elect individuals to the DFSC. Both elected faculty members will serve for two-year periods. Faculty member's terms will be staggered. One of the elected faculty members will serve as chair. The AC will prepare an annual report to be submitted to the Department 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

Each year, the AC will select at least **one** of the stated Student Learning Outcomes to assess.

I. Direct Assessment

(a) Direct Assessment of Student Assignments

Faculty teaching any course that counts toward the major can voluntarily provide the assessment committee with any completed assignment(s) they

believe demonstrate the selected student learning outcome for that year, with the qualification that all sample assignments must have been completed by Philosophy majors. All information identifying the particular student and instructor will be removed from the assignment. The committee will review a portion of these assignments to assess how well the program's student learning outcomes are being met.

(b) Direct Assessment of Student Achievement

The AC will include in its report details of any student achievements (such as presentations, publications, and awards) that demonstrate the selected student learning outcome for that year. The AC will communicate with philosophy majors, faculty, and the chair to solicit information about student achievements.

II. Indirect Assessment

During both the fall and the spring semesters, the AC will survey graduating majors. The survey will ask majors about their general experience in the program, while focusing on soliciting information from students about whether they think the program has met the selected student learning outcome for that year.

C. Assessment Reflection

In its annual report, the AC will describe the assessment process undertaken during the current academic year and provide a summary and recommendations. The Department will then use the report to reflect on whether the program is meeting its stated Student Learning Outcomes, whether the program should be modified in any way, and whether the Assessment Plan itself is adequate.