



Philosophy | 2016-2017 Assessment Plan

1. Please review last year's assessment results (2015-2016) as well as the Academic Program Assessment Report with the faculty in your program. How does your program plan to take these results into consideration in future programmatic planning?

Philosophy faculty members plan to advise students more frequently on the courses they have to take to major in philosophy. Especially the faculty members will guide students to take more core philosophy lower-level courses to prepare them with intensive philosophy upper level courses.

2. Please review your program's Learning Outcomes. Do any of them need to be updated or clarified?
 - a. Please provide brief indications of the kinds of assessment that might be used to assess each outcome.

Philosophy's Learning Outcomes are as follows;

1. Be familiar with the history of philosophical thought and able to identify the dominant figures and issues in the ancient, medieval, early modern and modern philosophical eras.

This outcome may be measured through exams, term papers, and exit interviews.

2. Be able to articulate and think carefully through questions about the structure and nature of reality, our place within it, and how we ought to act.

This outcome may be measured through term papers, in-class presentations, and exit interviews.

3. Be able to interpret and extract an author's arguments from a text and to offer novel, substantive commentary on philosophical positions.

This outcome may be measured through term papers, in-class presentations, and exit interviews.

4. Be able to offer a balanced and fair evaluation of major philosophical figures and issues in writing and public presentation.

This outcome may be measured through course exams, term papers, in-class presentation, and exit interviews.

5. Be able to compose and deliver to an audience a clear and cogent philosophical argument in defense of their preferred position.

This outcome may be measured through course papers, in-class presentations, and exit interviews.

- b. Please compare your Learning Outcomes to the University's main learning objectives. Which programmatic outcomes match university mission outcomes?

The first learning outcome “Be familiar with the history of philosophical thought and able to identify the dominant figures and issues in the ancient, medieval, early modern and modern philosophical eras.” meets the interdisciplinary objective. The philosophical theories of the major philosophers in human history are the foundation of various disciplines such as political science, psychology, natural science, literature, communication, etc.

The second and the fifth learning outcomes “Be able to articulate and think carefully through questions about the structure and nature of reality, our place within it, and how we ought to act.” and “Be able to compose and deliver to an audience a clear and cogent philosophical argument in defense of their preferred position” meet the objectives of critical thinking, problem-focused thinking, and engaged citizenship. Thinking critically on the metaphysical, ethical and social problems in our life and articulating the findings and defending the positions in an argumentatively way are the essential features of critical thinking, problem-focused thinking, and engaged activity of citizens.

The third and the fourth learning outcome “Be able to interpret and extract an author's arguments from a text and to offer novel, substantive commentary on philosophical positions.” and “Be able to offer a balanced and fair evaluation of major philosophical figures and issues in writing and public presentation.” meet the objectives of critical thinking and problem-focused thinking. Critical reading and thinking and evaluation of arguments on various philosophical problems and positions in writing and publication are the very activities of problem-focused critical thinking and engaged citizenship.

3. Which outcome will you assess this year (2016-2017)?

We will assess the Learning Outcome #5. Be able to compose and deliver to an audience a clear and cogent philosophical argument in defense of their preferred position.

4. Which technique will you use to assess this outcome?

Philosophy program will conduct exit interviews with graduating seniors. First, the faculty will read the papers the graduating senior wrote in their last upper-level philosophy classes and then, ask questions on the arguments they made in the paper, evaluating their arguments for their positions and the delivery of them.

5. Which course or group of students will you assess on the outcome chosen above and when?

The exit interviews for the graduating seniors will be conducted two times a year, at the end of the Fall semester and at the end of the Spring semester. The Learning Outcome #5 is a learning outcome of all upper-level philosophy courses. Philosophy majors who take any upper level philosophy courses are able to compose and deliver an argument in defense of their position on philosophical problems and issues.