

Assessment Plan -- Program Level

Program: B.A., Philosophy
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Program Mission Statement: Engaging in philosophical study is to engage in a process of coming to understand one’s self and one’s place in the world. The major in Philosophy is devoted to this endeavor through its content and its form. It engages students in asking questions about the possibility of knowledge, the nature of morality, beauty and aesthetic experience, the meaning of religious experience, the justification and limits of power, and the purpose and meaning of philosophical inquiry itself. And it holds that to be successful in this enquiry, clear and careful thinking, the ability to question deeply held assumptions and attitudes, and a commitment to sound reasoning and careful appraisal of evidence is needed. The BA in Philosophy prepares students for success in all careers that require critical thinking and skill in communications and analysis, particularly law, finance, government service, public policy, diplomacy, etc. as well as for further graduate study.

Program Outcomes	Is this a student learning outcome?	Learning Opportunities:	Assessment Methods/Measures:	Target Levels/Benchmarks	When Will Assessment Be Conducted and Reviewed?	How Will Results Be Used and Communicated?
<i>Upon successful completion of the BA in Philosophy, students will be able to:</i>						
I. <i>Cognitive Content</i> a) Describe the scope and flux of philosophical ideas in their historical contexts and interconnections. b) Demonstrate an understanding of the demands and intricacies of philosophical thought as expressed in the works of great philosophers in detail. c) Compare and contrast differing styles, schools and approaches in philosophy d) Recognize, appreciate and assess aesthetic and ethical value in human thought and accomplishment	Yes	PHIL 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, and 317 (history of philosophy courses) PHIL 418, 420 (capstone courses) PHIL 238, 344, 354, 356, 402 PHIL 226, 310, 312, 330, 402, 410,	1. Course-based assessment (primarily evaluation of written work, including short essays, tests, and term papers.) 2. Senior philosophy major exit survey (indirect) 3. Alumni survey (indirect)	1. 70% of students achieve a passing result (C) or above on assessed assignments. 2. At least 80% of graduating philosophy majors express confidence that they have achieved this learning outcome. 3. At least 75% of alumni indicate that their philosophy studies at AUC endowed them with a strong understanding of the relevant cognitive content.	The course assessments and surveys will be conducted on a yearly basis.	The Department’s Assessment Committee will review the results and communicate them to the Department at least once a year. The results will be used as the basis for appropriate improvements in the curriculum, and will be summarized in the Department’s annual assessment report.

<p>II. <i>Fundamental Philosophical Skills</i></p> <p>a) Textual Interpretation: Closely read and understand sophisticated philosophical texts</p> <p>b). Rational Thought and Expression: Organize, analyze and present complex arguments and ideas accurately, and with thoughtful self-awareness</p> <p>c) Critical Thinking: Respectfully understand and assess differing points of view and their underlying commitments.</p> <p>d). Contextual Awareness: Apply critical philosophical thinking to the human use of knowledge in scientific, cultural and political discourses</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PHIL 100, 226, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 344, 354, 360, 402 (etc); PHIL 418, 420 (capstone courses)</p> <p>PHIL 224, 226, 330, 360, 402; PHIL 418, 420 (capstone courses)</p> <p>PHIL 100, 221, 224, 226, 238, 318, 330, 402</p> <p>PHIL 234, 258, 382, 319</p>	<p>1. Course-based assessment (primarily evaluation of written work, including short essays, tests, and term papers.)</p> <p>2. Senior philosophy major exit survey (indirect)</p> <p>3. Alumni survey (indirect)</p>	<p>1. 70% of students achieve a passing result (C) or above on assessed assignments.</p> <p>2. At least 80% of graduating philosophy majors express confidence that they have achieved this learning outcome.</p> <p>3. At least 75% of alumni indicate that their philosophy studies at AUC endowed them with a good command of the relevant philosophical skills.</p>	<p>The course assessments and surveys will be conducted on a yearly basis.</p>	<p>The Department's Assessment Committee will review the results and communicate them to the Department at least once a year. The results will be used as the basis for appropriate improvements in the curriculum, and will be summarized in the Department's annual assessment report.</p>
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