

*We have taken this opportunity to relook closely at our previous assessment plan. As a result, we have redesigned the learning objectives and expanded some of the assessment tools we are now using. Much of our previous plan relied solely on student feedback and perceptions. We believe this is important, but the new plan adds some more direct measures. The data we report in other sections is based on the information we have been collecting. New data will be gathered starting with the 2016-2017 academic year.

Philosophy Learning Objectives & Assessment Plan: All six learning objectives will be measured in part through the use of a common rubric designed by the Philosophy faculty to measure success in the objectives in the courses noted below.

AIM: Majors will be able to write and speak clearly about challenging philosophical texts, demonstrating an ability to grasp the central claim of a text, and showing awareness of different interpretations.

METHOD: Each term, the general performance of majors in a relevant course will be assessed according to our assessment rubric. Relevant courses: PHIL 3100, 3120, 3150, or 3180, which are designated as Communications Intensive (CI).

WHEN: At least one CI-designated course is offered each academic term.

AIM: Majors will be able to provide fair assessments of arguments, with thoughtful consideration of objections and counterexamples.

METHOD: Each term, the general performance of majors in a relevant course will be assessed according to our assessment rubric. Relevant courses: PHIL 4300, 4310, 4400, or 4410.

WHEN: At least one of these courses is offered each term.

AIM: Majors will be able to demonstrate thoughtful engagement with different approaches or perspectives on moral questions, both orally and in writing.

METHOD: Each term, the general performance of majors in a relevant course will be assessed according to our assessment rubric. Relevant courses: PHIL 1120, 2400, 3500, 3530, 3580, 4500, or 4530.

WHEN: At least one of these courses is offered each term.

AIM: Majors will demonstrate in their essays knowledge of ideas and theories from influential historical philosophers, and will be able to bring those ideas and theories to bear on philosophical questions.

METHOD: Each term, the general performance of majors in a relevant course will be assessed according to our assessment rubric. Relevant courses: PHIL 3100, 3110, 3120, 3150, or 3180.

WHEN: One of these courses is offered each term.

AIM: Majors will be able to raise thoughtful and interesting questions and objections that further and enrich philosophical discussions, both orally and in writing.

METHOD: Each term, the general performance of majors in a relevant course will be assessed according to our assessment rubric. Relevant courses: our upper-division courses, and especially PHIL 4900 (Special Topics), 4910 (Readings and Research), and PHIL 4990 (Philosophy Capstone Seminar).

WHEN: Upper-division courses are offered each term; 4900 is offered when schedules permit (once or twice every two years); 4910 is offered each term by instructors on an individual basis.

AIM: Majors will be successful in gaining admission to graduate programs and professional schools.

METHOD: Alumni survey.

WHEN: Three years after graduation.