Philosophy

Assessment Plan for the PhD Program

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the Ph.D. program in Philosophy will achieve the following objectives:

1. Broad training in the discipline of philosophy, including both contemporary philosophy and the history of philosophy, and general familiarity with the problems that define and methodologies employed in the main sub-disciplines of philosophy.

   **Assessment Methods:** assignments and term papers in the first year pro-seminar (a three quarter sequence for the first year class comprising two quarters in epistemology and metaphysics and one quarter in value theory) and in courses that satisfy the distribution requirement (in addition to the pro-seminar, one seminar in epistemology and metaphysics, two seminars in value theory, and three seminars in the history of philosophy, including one in ancient philosophy).

2. The ability to (a) read and critically assess philosophical texts and contemporary philosophical research, (b) to analyze and to produce philosophical arguments at a professional level, (c) to write clearly and at a professional level, and (d) to communicate and present ideas orally.

   **Assessment Methods:** these general critical and analytical abilities come into play in all graduate level courses and independent research projects. Assessment of student progress in these areas is through instructor evaluation of coursework, evaluation of the proposition (a pre-dissertation independent research paper) by a student’s faculty committee, and a year end faculty meeting at which the progress of every graduate student in the program is discussed.

3. The development of a research specialty in some sub-discipline(s) of philosophy and the ability to identify philosophically important research questions and to do independent and original written research in that area of philosophy.

   **Assessment Methods:** evaluation of the proposition by a student’s faculty committee, the oral exam on the dissertation prospectus, and the dissertation defense.

4. The ability to cover material and to produce research papers in a timely way.

   **Assessment Methods:** year end faculty meeting at which the progress of every graduate student is discussed.
5. The ability to present and defend the results of one’s research orally.

   **Assessment Methods:** oral exam on the Master’s paper, oral exam on the dissertation prospectus, and the dissertation defense

6. Becoming effective teachers with the ability to present philosophical material and to engage undergraduates in philosophical issues.

   **Assessment Methods:** student teaching evaluations, faculty visits of teaching assistant’s discussion sections, the year end faculty meeting

7. Familiarity with central aspects of the profession, such as preparing articles for publication in journals, conference presentations, preparing grant proposals, preparing one’s CV for the job market.

   **Assessment Methods:** performance in professionalization course (Philosophy 400, 1 unit required each quarter for second and third year students), job placement workshops, practice interviews and job talks for the job market.

8. Are satisfied graduates.

   **Assessment Method:** quarterly ‘state of the Department meetings’ with Department Chair, Graduate Adviser and graduate students; dissertation defense
Assessment Plan for the MA Program

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the M.A. program in Philosophy will achieve the following objectives:

1. Broad training in the discipline of philosophy, including both contemporary philosophy and the history of philosophy, and general familiarity with the problems that define and methodologies employed in the main sub-disciplines of philosophy.

   **Assessment Methods:** assignments and term papers in the first year pro-
   seminar (a three quarter sequence for the first year class comprising two
   quarters in epistemology and metaphysics and one quarter in value theory)
   and in the other nine courses required for the MA degree.

2. The ability to (a) read and critically assess philosophical texts and
   contemporary philosophical research, (b) to analyze and to produce
   philosophical arguments at a professional level, (c) to write clearly and at a
   professional level, and (d) to communicate and present ideas orally.

   **Assessment Methods:** these general critical and analytical abilities come
   into play in all graduate level courses and independent research projects.
   Assessment of student progress in these areas is through instructor
   evaluation of coursework, evaluation of the Master’s Paper by a student’s
   faculty committee, and a year end faculty meeting at which the progress of
   every graduate student is discussed.

3. The ability to cover material and to produce research papers in a timely way.

   **Assessment Methods:** year end faculty meeting at which the progress of
   every graduate student is discussed.

4. The ability to present and defend the results of one’s research orally.

   **Assessment Methods:** oral exam on the Master’s Paper

5. Becoming effective teachers with the ability to present philosophical material
   and to engage undergraduates in philosophical issues.

   **Assessment Methods:** student teaching evaluations, faculty visits of
   teaching assistant’s discussion sections, the year end faculty meeting

6. Familiarity with central aspects of the profession, such as teaching methods,
   preparing articles for publication in journals, conference presentations,
   preparing grant proposals.

   **Assessment Methods:** performance in professionalization course
   (Philosophy 400, 1 unit required each quarter for second and third year
   students).