

2021-2022 Assessment Cycle

Assessment Findings

Program Assessment Accomplishments

Our primary accomplishment was in holding a department meeting specifically just on assessment in January to correct some arbitrariness in some of our standards and to communicate more effectively to the faculty what the assessment process entails from the perspective of the assessment liaison for the department. There was also a discussion of whether Ws and Is should be included in the assessment findings (as they had been included in the past), and it was determined not to include them because, after all, a student withdrawing or not completing the course in question has not given us a basis from which to make judgments about whether they have made any progress in mastering our PSLOs.

Finding per Measure

BA - Philosophy Outcome Set

PSLO 1

Outcome: Demonstrate the ability to think critically, using both natural and artificial languages

▼ **Measure:** Course Grades
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, we begin with recording all students' grades in courses that were assessed according to this PSLO. We then see how many achieved an A or a B relative to the total number of grades given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will earn a B or better

Findings for Course Grades

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:
Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Direct Evaluation in Classes
Program level Direct - Other

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak', 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached. This document is attached. All other PSLOs use this document, and so this document is only linked here.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score MODERATE or better

Supporting Attachments:

[OutcomesAssessFormRevJune2021\[12168\].doc \(Microsoft Word\)](#)

Findings for Direct Evaluation in Classes

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Portfolio
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description:

To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak', 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached. In the linked attachment above, go to page 3 of that document for portfolio assessment.

Acceptable Target:

75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Portfolio

Summary of Findings:

Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

PSLO 2

Outcome: Demonstrate an understanding of the major figures and movements in ancient, modern and contemporary philosophy

▼ **Measure:** Course Grades
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, we begin with recording all students' grades in courses that were assessed according to this PSLO. We then see how many achieved an A or a B relative to the total number of grades given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will earn a B or better

Findings for Course Grades

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Direct Evaluation in Classes
Program level Direct - Other

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak'

'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Direct Evaluation in Classes

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

PSLO 3

Outcome: Explain important theories and the views of major figures in Metaphysics and Epistemology

▼ **Measure:** Course Grades
Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, we begin with recording all students' grades in courses that were assessed according to this PSLO. We then see how many achieved an A or a B relative to the total number of grades given to

determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will earn a B or better

Findings for Course Grades

Summary of Findings: 80% of our students scored a B or better on this PSLO.

Results : Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

Recommendations: Given that 80% of our students scored a B or better on this PLSO, there isn't a clear reason to change pedagogy or program curriculum with respect to this PSLO and this measure. However, see the note below.

Reflections/Notes: The paucity of data (only 5 students were evaluated with respect to this PSLO) may render any recommendations spurious.

Substantiating Evidence:

 [Assessment Findings File \(Word Document \(Open XML\)\)](#)

Note that this file is used for all other assessment findings. All the data is on this file, so this file has only been attached once.

▼ **Measure:** Direct Evaluation in Classes

Direct - Other

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak' 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work

that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Direct Evaluation in Classes

Summary of Findings:	Only 60% of our students scored moderate or better on this PSLO.
Results :	Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met
Recommendations:	It's difficult to know whether any recommendations should be made, given the note below.
Reflections/Notes:	The paucity of data (only 5 students were evaluated with respect to this PSLO) may render any recommendations spurious.

PSLO 4

Outcome: Explain important theories and the views of major figures in Value Theory

▼ **Measure:** Course Grades
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, we begin with recording all students'

grades in courses that were assessed according to this PSLO. We then see how many achieved an A or a B relative to the total number of grades given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score a B or better

Findings for Course Grades

Summary of Findings: 75% of the students evaluated received a B or higher on this SLO.

Results : Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

Recommendations: Given that 75% of our students scored a B or better on this PLSO, there isn't a clear reason to change pedagogy or program curriculum with respect to this PSLO and this measure.

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Direct Evaluation in Classes *Program level Direct - Other*

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak', 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate'

relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target:

75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Direct Evaluation in Classes

Summary of Findings: 75% of students evaluated for this PSLO received a score of moderate or better.

Results : Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

Recommendations: Given that 75% of our students scored a moderate or better on this PLSO, there isn't a clear reason to change pedagogy or program curriculum with respect to this PSLO and this measure.

Reflections/Notes:

PSLO 5

Outcome: Formulate and evaluate philosophical positions critically and systematically

▼ **Measure:** Course Grades
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, we begin with recording all students' grades in courses that were assessed according to this PSLO. We then see how many achieved an A or a B relative to the total number of grades given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target:

75% will score a B or better

Findings for Course Grades

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Direct Evaluation in Classes
Program level Direct - Other

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak' 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Direct Evaluation in Classes

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Portfolio
Program level Direct - Portfolio

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak' 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached. In the linked attachment above, go to page 3 of that document for portfolio assessment.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Portfolio

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

Outcome: Construct well-reasoned, well-integrated essays based on philosophical research

▼ **Measure:** Course Grades
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, we begin with recording all students' grades in courses that were assessed according to this PSLO. We then see how many achieved an A or a B relative to the total number of grades given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score B or better

Findings for Course Grades

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Direct Evaluation in Classes
Program level Direct - Other

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak', 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work

that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Direct Evaluation in Classes

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Portfolio
Program level Direct - Portfolio

Details/Description: To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak', 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to

determine whether the target has been reached. In the linked attachment above, go to page 3 of that document for portfolio assessment.

Acceptable Target:

75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Portfolio

Summary of Findings: Not assessed this year.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

PSLO 7

Outcome: Defend philosophical positions in an oral format

- ▼ **Measure:** Performance Assessment
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description:

To calculate whether the acceptable target has been reached, the Assessment Liaison distributes a document to all instructors asking the instructors to complete information on whether the student's work in question in the course in question should be judged as being 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak', 'absent' or 'N/A' with respect to the PSLO being assessed. The instructor bases this judgment on the quality of work that the student has produced, work that would be relevant to the PSLO in question. Specifically, we use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question. We then

see how many achieved a 'strong' or 'moderate' relative to the total number of judgments given to determine whether the target has been reached. In the linked attachment above, go to page 2 of that document for oral defense of thesis assessment.

Acceptable Target: 75% will score MODERATE or better

Findings for Performance Assessment

Summary of Findings: 100% of our students scored a moderate or better on this PSLO.

Results : Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

Recommendations: Given that 100% of our students scored a B or better on this PLSO, there isn't a clear reason to change pedagogy or program curriculum with respect to this PSLO and this measure. However, see the note below.

Reflections/Notes: Given the paucity of data (1 student) for this PSLO, any recommendations made could be spurious.

Overall Recommendations

At this time, we do not have specific recommendations for these PSLOs, anyway. We will see next year whether any recommendations need to be made for PSLOs 1, 2, 5, and 6.

Overall Reflection

Other than in one findings area, our students are achieving the threshold that we set (75% will score a B or

higher, a moderate or higher), so we are pleased with the progress of our philosophy majors. However, as noted above there is little data for some of the findings, so this good news should be appropriately tempered.

Faculty Collaboration

We will had a Departmental meeting in January 2022 in which we carefully reviewed the findings of the 20-21 assessment cycle. In this review, we learned that our determination of 'strong', 'moderate', 'weak', and 'absent' with respect to the evaluation of the student's performance in the course in question for each PSLO was somewhat arbitrary. We corrected that partial arbitrariness by coming up with new standards to use in our determinations. What we do now is use the overall course grade as a starting point to reflect upon but then consider grades received on relevant assessments in the course to make these determinations, that is, relevant to the specific PSLO in question.

Communication & Collaboration with Students

The supervising faculty member of the student's portfolio in question informs the students about the use of the portfolio in our assessment plan, and may periodically ask the students for feedback on the assessment plan with respect to the portfolio. Also, the Department Chair meets every new Philosophy major, and in that capacity, the chair will now make sure to communicate that our portfolios are an integral part of our assessment plan. The chair always discussed our PSLOs with new majors in the past, but will now make sure to communicate that additional information about the importance of our portfolios.

Communication & Collaboration with External Stakeholders

As the direct career path for a philosophy major is going to graduate school to become a philosophy teacher, it is not clear that involving the community and advisory boards in an improvement to our assessment plan is relevant. The Departmental Liaison talked to two other undergraduate programs in philosophy, and neither of those programs reported to external stakeholders for the very same reasons.

Communication & Collaboration with University

The Departmental Assessment Liaison attended two workshops last year.

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