

2021-2022 Assessment Cycle
Assessment Plan

Mission Statement

Consistent with the mission of the University and the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies is dedicated to providing high quality undergraduate courses in philosophy and religious studies, to providing the educational foundations for life-long critical thinking, to engaging in research and scholarly activities in these and related areas and to serving the University and its various communities. The Department emphasizes excellence in teaching undergraduate students.

Measures

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

▼ **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 \(Microsoft Word\)](#)

▼ **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

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

▼ **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

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

▼ **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

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

▼ **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

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

▼ **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

▼ **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

PSLO 6

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

▼ **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

▼ **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
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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

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

Analysis and Reporting Calendar

Data are collected, analyzed, and then reported for PSLO 1, 2, 5, 6 every other year, starting with AY 20-21. Data are collected, analyzed, and then reported for PSLO 3, 4, 7 the other year, with AY 21-22 being the next year that will be reported for that PSLO set.

Stakeholder Involvement

Philosophy Department faculty contributed to the development of this plan many years ago. They have periodically reviewed the plan for possible improvements to the plan, and revisions to the curriculum. In particular, we had a Department meeting in January 2022 in which we carefully reviewed the findings of the 2020-2021 assessment cycle. This type of careful review hadn't been done in several years. 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. 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. With regard to the portfolio requirement, the supervising faculty member of the student's portfolio in question will also inform 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. We will also consider whether communication with graduate programs about our assessment plan would be beneficial to our program. However, 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.

Program Assessment Plan Review Cycle

The Program Assessment Plan is reviewed approximately once every 3 years. Changes to the Assessment Plan were made in FY14 and FY17, FY 21, and then minor changes were made in FY 22.

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