

# Program Assessment Plan

**Department Name: Philosophy**  
**Major: BA PHILOSOPHY**

## Student Learning Goals:

At the end of this program students will be able to:

1.	Demonstrate mature writing skills in the composition of philosophical essays.
2.	Demonstrate skill and content knowledge in analytic philosophy.
3.	Demonstrate appreciation of the history of Western philosophy.
4.	Demonstrate skill in reasoning about ethical issues.
5.	Demonstrate logical reasoning skills.
6.	Demonstrate oral communication skills.
7.	Demonstrate ability to engage in reflective, critical self-assessment.

## Assessment Plan:

Assessment Measure:	Goals Addressed: (list by number)	How is the information used?
PHIL 495 – Senior Comprehensive Examination. A one-credit capstone experience for seniors culminating in a four-part examination over the major areas within the discipline.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	These exams will be evaluated and scored by a departmental assessment committee. The four parts of the exam correspond to Learning Goals 2-5 above and will form the principal basis for the student's grade on the exam and for the course. A composite score will reflect and record quality of writing (Goal 1). These scores will serve as the primary data set on which program assessment will be based. The assessment committee will produce an annual report that analyses and evaluates the data and prescribes curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular adjustments within the department and program.
Exit Interviews	6, 7	Phil. 495 will also require upcoming graduates to meet with the Chair to discuss their experiences in the program. Students will be asked to remark on the strengths and weaknesses of the program, their own performance within the program, and their plans for post-graduation application of their degree. Students will be evaluated by the Chair for Learning Goals 6 and 7 (though their scores will not affect their PHIL 459 course grade). These scores will round out the data set described above and will be treated similarly.
Alumni Survey		Periodically (roughly every 3-5 years), the Department will mail a brief survey to philosophy graduates. This survey will ask respondents to describe their post-graduation activities and to assess the degree to which their undergraduate studies in philosophy have contributed to their success. This information will be collected and organized by the department's administrative assistant and will be analyzed by the assessment committee. Results will be incorporated into that year's annual assessment committee report.

Updated: April 24, 2006