

**Degree Program  
Assessment of Student Learning Plan  
Kansas State University**

Check the box if your program's student learning outcomes have been modified since November 2003. If so, please email ([apr@ksu.edu](mailto:apr@ksu.edu)) or attach a hard copy to this document.

**A. College, Department, and Date**

College: Arts and Sciences  
 Department: Philosophy  
 Date: May 11, 2005

**B. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plans**

Bruce Glymour, Associate Professor  
 Amy Lara, Assistant Professor

**C. Degree Program**

B.A./B.S. in Philosophy

**D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan**

**1. Student Learning Outcome(s)**

The Department of Philosophy will, between Fall 2004 and Spring 2007, develop and implement test instruments to determine student accomplishment of Departmental SLOs 3, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (see attached list of Departmental SLOs). Test instruments will primarily be multiple choice questions, and will be administered in selected classes chosen for their relevance to the particular SLOs and in order to provide adequate coverage of our majors. (But see section 2b for additional indirect measures).

Departmental SLOs	Courses								
	300	301	320	330	340	525	585	635	640
3	X	X		X	X				
9			X						
10				X	X	X	X	X	X
11	X								
12		X							

Philo 300, 301, 320, 330 and 340 are 'core' classes taken by every major. On average, each of these classes enrolls 21 students, with 80% of those students being majors. Philo 525, 585, 635, and 640 are the advanced courses most commonly taken by majors. 100% of the 19 philosophy majors who graduated in the last three years took at least one course from this group (525, 585,

635, and 640). On average, each of these four classes enrolls 11 students, with 60% of those students being majors.

Relationship to K-State Student Learning Outcomes (insert the program SLOs and check all that apply):

Departmental SLOs	University-wide SLOs (Undergraduate Programs)					Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
	Knowledge	Critical Thinking	Communication	Diversity	Academic / Professional Integrity	
3		X				
9	X	X			X	
10	X				X	
11	X			X		
12	X			X		

**2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed? What groups will be included in the assessment?**

**a) Direct Measures**

Multiple choice questions will be developed for each SLO (except SLO 9, which will be tested by having students solve objective logical problems). The instructor of each class will deliver the questions at an appropriate time during the semester. All students in each class will be tested. Because the questions will be pre-determined and objective, individual instructors can grade their own students and forward the data to the assessment committee without risk of individual variation. Due to the courses we are choosing for testing these SLOs, all majors will be tested for each SLO at least once during their time in the major; and for SLO 10, most majors will be tested at least once at the advanced level.

Specific topics and skills to be tested for each SLO-course pairing are in the chart on the following page.

**b) Indirect Measures**

To supplement the above direct measures, the department will develop an exit interview that will use self-assessment to measure our majors' learning outcomes indirectly. The exit interview will be a standard form to be filled out by each major in the last semester before they graduate. The completed forms will be evaluated by the assessment committee, and the results will be presented to the department for discussion.

The exit interview form will be developed by the end of Fall, 2005. For 2004 - 2006, it will focus on testing SLOs 9 and 10, but will later expand to include other SLOs.

Sample questions for testing SLOs 9 and 10 in the exit interview are in the chart on the following page.

Courses	Departmental SLOs				
	3	9	10	11	12
300	Assess Validity and Soundness of Philosophic Arguments			Identify Plato's theory of forms, Plato's ethical theory, Aristotle's ethical theory, and Aristotle's political philosophy.	
301	Assess Validity and Soundness of Philosophic Arguments				Identify theories as: Rationalist, Empiricist, Idealist; identify types of social contract theory.
320		Assess Validity Of Formal Arguments Using Semantic And Syntactic Methods			
330	Assess Validity and Soundness of Philosophic Arguments		Identify theories as: Consequentialist, Deontological, or Virtue Theories; identify Liberal theories		
340	Assess Validity And Soundness of Philosophic Arguments		Identify theories as: Foundationalist, Reliabilist, Coherentist; Identify relations of Supervenience		
525			Identify theories as: Liberal, Communitarian, Marxist; Identify theories of Distributive Justice		
585			Tested topics vary with course content, may include: types of interpretations of the CI test, types of definitions of virtue, duty, judgment, and value		
635			Identify theories of objects, causation, properties, supervenience		
640			Identify theories as Foundationalist, Coherentist, Reliabilist, Identify theories of a-priori knowledge		
Exit Interview		"Rate your skill level at evaluating the validity of arguments in sentential logic." "Compare this to the skill level you had upon entering the philosophy major."	"Rate your level of familiarity with contemporary theories in epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and social/political philosophy."		

**3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When and in what format will the results of the assessment be discussed?**

Instruments for SLO 3 will be available and used for all sections of 320 in and subsequent to Spring 2005. Instruments for remaining SLOs will be available and used for all sections of core courses (300, 301, 330, 340) and at least two of the advanced courses (525, 585, 635, 640) in and subsequent to Fall 2005; and instruments for all SLO's to be assessed in the remaining advanced courses will be available and used in all sections of these courses subsequent to Spring 2006. Baseline data will be comprised by results from the first two semesters in which assessment occurs in a given course-SLO pairing.

Review of Assessment strategies and SLO outcomes will begin immediately subsequent to the availability of baseline data. Data will be forwarded at the end of each semester to a central data bank. Statistics will be compiled and presented to the departmental assessment committee. Once each semester the assessment committee will present a summary of the data to the department as a whole for discussion. Average score for an SLO test-question in a given course should not fall below 75%, and should it do so, the assessment committee will recommend further discussion by the department. The department will then consider alternative delivery methods, or make changes in assessment strategies if there is good reason to think assessed outcomes differ from the actual abilities students have.

**4. What is the unit's process for using assessment results to improve student learning?**

The assessment committee's job will be to use the outcomes measures to identify concepts and skills students have the most difficulty mastering. When these data are presented to the department semi-annually, the department will use the data to assess the efficacy of particular instructional techniques which may differ over offerings of the same course, and to assess the overall design of the department's curriculum.

**5. Addenda**

Attached are the Departmental SLOs, a matrix that maps all departmental SLOs to all courses in the department that are regularly taken by majors, and sample questions for testing SLO 3 and SLO 9.

**PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT COURSE/SLO MATRIX**  
**APRIL, 2005**

Courses that Majors Take	Departmental SLOs													
	1 Reconstruct theory	2 Reconstruct system of arguments	3 Evaluate validity & invalidity	4 Construct theories in own sub-domain	5 Construct a defense of a theory in own sub-domain	6 Identify open questions	7 Convey understanding in written form	8 Construct argumentative essay	9 Derivations in 1 <sup>st</sup> order logic	10 Familiarity with range of contemporary theories	11 Central theories in ancient philosophy	12 Central theories in early modern philosophy	13 Professional ethics in writing	14 Diversity of moral theories
300 Ancient	X	X	XX			X	X	X			XX			
301 Modern	X	X	XX			X	X	X				XX		
328 Symbolic Logic I			X						XX					
330 Moral and Political	X	X	XX			X	X	X		XX				XX
340 Knowledge and Reality	X	X	XX			X	X	X		XX				
360 Topics in Continental	X	X	X			X	X	X						
365 Medical Ethics						XX								XX
380 Phil. and Race						XX								
385 Engineering Ethics						XX								XX
390 Business Ethics						XX								XX
399 Honors Seminar						X								
492 Computers and Society						XX								
499 Senior Honors Thesis	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX					XX	
510 Symbolic Logic II			X						XX					
525 Social-Political	X	X	X			X	X	X		XX				XX
535 Phil. of Law	X	X	X			X	X	X						XX
550 Phil. of Social Science	X	X	X			X	X	X						
570 Aesthetics	X	X	X			X	X	X						
585 Ethics	X	X	X			X	X	X		XX				XX
590 Topics in Phil.	X	X	X			X	X	X						
595 Environmental Ethics						XX	X	X						XX

Legend:

"X" = "This course could be used to test this SLO"

"XX" = "This is an especially appropriate course in which to test this SLO"

"XX" = "The department's assessment plan for 2004 - 2007 already includes testing this SLO in this course"

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Reconstruct theory	Reconstruct system of arguments	Evaluate validity & invalidity	Construct theories in own sub-domain	Construct a defense of a theory in own sub-domain	Identify open questions	Convey understanding in written form	Construct argumentative essay	Derivations in 1 <sup>st</sup> order logic	Familiarity with range of contemporary theories	Central theories in ancient philosophy	Central theories in early modern philosophy	Professional ethics in writing	Diversity of moral theories
601 Advanced Issues in History	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX			X	X	XX	
615 Phil. of Religion	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	
620 Development of Analytic	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	
625 Phil. of Language	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	
635 Metaphysics	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX		XX			XX	
640 Epistemology	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX		XX			XX	
645 Phil. of Science	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	
646 Phil. of Biology	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX						
647 Phil. of Physics	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX						
650 Rationality and Action	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	
655 Phil. of Mind	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	
660 Advanced Ethics	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	XX
665 Phil. of Economics	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	
670 Advanced Social-Political	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	XX
675 Advanced Phil. of Law	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	XX
680 Independent Study	X	X	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					X	
685 Current Topics in Metaphysics and Epistemology	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX	XX					XX	
690 Special Topics in Phil.	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	X	X					X	
701 Topics in Metalegic				XX	XX	X			X					

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