PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN
FOR MAJORS AND MINORS

The basic assessment of the philosophy program will be conducted in approximately five stages.
I. Clear identification and statement of our mission and purpose.
II. Statement of realizable goals.
III. Tools for assessing whether these goals are being met.
IV. Evaluation of assessment data.
V. Possible reevaluation of goals and the efficacy of assessment strategies.

I. Statement of Purpose in light of the UW-Platteville Mission Statement

With regard to our mission, the Philosophy program has two main goals:

• The first goal is to help each student in its courses, but especially our philosophy majors and minors, to become what UW-Platteville pledges in the first item of its mission statement, namely, “to become broader in perspective, more literate, intellectually more astute, ethically more sensitive, and to participate wisely in society as a competent professional and knowledgeable citizen.”

• The second goal is to provide our majors and minors the opportunity to develop in depth their ability to think critically about the most fundamental (and inescapable) questions that humans can raise about reality, knowledge, and values.

• As a corollary to this second goal, we aim to give our majors and minors a solid preparation for whatever they pursue after graduation, whether it be graduate studies, law school, medicine, education, academic computing, journalism, social work, ministry, a fine art, or business.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

What do we believe that majors and minors in the UW-Platteville philosophy program should know? Students who major or minor in philosophy will:

• (1) acquire a broad understanding of the history of Western philosophy;
• (2) become more ethically sensitive through the careful study of various ethical theories;
• (3) enhance their ability to analyze and clarify ideas;
• (4) refine their ability to think logically;
• (5) demonstrate their ability to present their ideas and arguments effectively, both orally and in writing.

III. Assessment Tools

In order to determine whether the student learning outcomes are being met:

• Students will submit a portfolio of their writing, with examples from each year of their academic career at UWP, that illustrates their ability to analyze ideas, think logically, and present coherent and effective arguments.
• There must be a minimum of five papers in the portfolio.
• At least two of those papers must address the ideas of an important philosopher in the history of Western philosophy.
  This tool will be used to measure all five learning outcomes.

• Students will present one of their papers in a public forum, such as the student conference sponsored each spring by the Wisconsin Philosophical Association. Those students unable to present a paper at a student conference must present a paper in one of their philosophy seminars.
  This tool will be used to measure learning outcomes (3)-(5) and possibly, depending upon the paper topic, outcomes (1) or (2).

• Students will be required to earn the minimum of a C in a course on logic.
  This tool will measure outcome (4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SLO #1</th>
<th>SLO #2</th>
<th>SLO #3</th>
<th>SLO #4</th>
<th>SLO #5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Forum</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logic Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Evaluation of Assessment Data

• Writing portfolios:
  Beginning in Fall 2005, advisors in the philosophy program will inform existing philosophy majors and minors to begin compiling their writing portfolios.
  By April, 2006, all philosophy majors and minors will submit their writing portfolios to their philosophy advisor.
  In May, 2006, faculty in the philosophy program will review the writing portfolios.

• Student Conferences
  In Fall 2005, students will be encouraged to submit one of their papers to a local student conference, such as the Wisconsin Philosophical Association.
  Although we will not require all of our majors to participate in student conferences, our program’s goal is to have at least one student each year present a paper at a student conference.

• Logic requirement
  The philosophy program will begin requiring Logic (PHIL 2630) or its equivalent for all philosophy majors and minors.

V. Possible Re-evaluation of Goals and Efficacy of Assessment Strategies

• In Fall 2006, faculty in the philosophy program will determine whether the assessment tools have identified any problems or shortcomings in the program.
  At that time, faculty will also decide whether or not the assessment tools are adequately measuring student achievement.