

2017 Philosophy Annual Program Plan

PHIL Philosophy

I.A. Describe the program(s) to be reviewed. What is the purpose of the program and how does it contribute to the mission of Skyline College? (**Program Profile: Purpose**)

Narrative

The philosophy program contributes to the College mission to “empower and transform a global community of learners” by offering a curriculum that helps students to become more aware of their shared humanity, their individuality, their social communities, and the contexts in which these are situated. We offer Skyline students a variety of courses, including: Introduction to Philosophy, Critical Thinking (with logic and scientific methods), Symbolic/Mathematical Logic, Ethics, Political Philosophy, World Religions, Philosophy of Religion, Asian Philosophy, and History of Philosophy (ancient and modern). The Program educates Skyline students in the methods and techniques of rigorous thinking about a wide range of fundamental questions regarding knowledge and the justification of belief, the nature of reality (ontology and cosmology), and values (moral and political). Philosophy students explore the ideas of great thinkers from a variety of philosophical movements and cultural perspectives. In our current environment of “fake news” and “post-truth” relativism, it is crucial that Skyline College students are prepared with the tools they need to justify beliefs or claims on the basis of evidence. The study of philosophy also provides personal enrichment. It helps to instill the intellectual virtues that are requisite for participating in a civilized and democratic society.

II.A. Describe the progress made on previously established program objectives (goals) including identification of achievements or areas in which further effort is needed. Programs which have not yet established CPR/APP objectives should discuss progress on program implementation or activities. (**Analysis: Progress on Prior Program Objectives (Goals) and Activities**)

Narrative

A previous objective was to renew and redesign the course materials, lesson plans, and assignments for PHIL 100 (introduction to philosophy), which is our highest enrolled course. This has been done. We will attempt to determine, over the next few years, whether or not these changes made an impact on student retention and success.

The Philosophy Program was also asked to create a course in Medical Ethics for the baccalaureate Program in Respiratory Therapy. This was done, and the new course has passed through Curriculum Committee.

Most significantly, the Philosophy Program developed an AA-T degree, which will become active later this year.

II.B. Describe any recent external or internal changes impacting the program or which are expected to impact the program in the next year. Please include when the specified changes occurred or are expected to occur. (**Analysis: Program Environment**)

Narrative

The most significant internal change is the introduction of the AA-T degree later this year. We expect to revisit the long-term schedule of course offerings to make sure that prospective PHIL majors have the opportunity to take the courses the need for the major.

One external change that may impact the program is the development of Meta Majors. Philosophy faculty have participated in preliminary workshops at the early phase of the plan. The Philosophy Program will soon develop a sequence of PHIL courses now that we have the AA degree ready to implement.

A second external change that will affect the program is the shift in the Honors Transfer Program from dedicated courses to a system of courses by “contract.” In the past, the Philosophy Program offered one course for the HTP (usually Ethics).

II.C. (1) Instructional Programs Only: Describe what was learned from the assessment of course SLOs for the current and past year.

(2) Student Service Programs Only: If PSLOs are being assessed this year (3-year cycle), describe what was learned. If no assessment was done because this is an off-cycle year, please state that this item is not applicable. (**Analysis: Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs and PSLOs)**)

Narrative

Five courses were assessed Spring 2017 and Fall 2017:

1. Spring 2017: PHIL 200; target of 2.0; result = 2.88 with 17 students assessed.
2. Spring 2017: PHIL 240; target of 2.0; result = 2.54 with 24 students assessed.
3. Fall 2017: PHIL 100; target of 2.0; result = 2.45 with 93 students assessed.
4. Fall 2017: PHIL 103; target of 2.0; result = 3.65 with 17 students assessed.
5. Fall 2017: PHIL 312; target of 2.0; result = 2.20 with 18 students assessed.

The assessment of PHIL 100 (new course materials, new lesson plans, and new assignments) is quite promising; but we will need to collect more data from additional semesters to draw any meaningful conclusion. For the other assessments, the sample size is too small to yield any meaningful conclusions.

III.A. Consider the previous analysis of progress achieved, program environment, and course-level SLOs or PSLOs (if applicable). What are the key findings and/or conclusions drawn? Discuss how what was learned can be used to improve the program's effectiveness. **(Reflection: Considering Key Findings)**

Narrative

All five results show that the criterion was met. The results ranged from a low of 2.20 to a high of 3.65 (out of a target of 2.0). However, the sample sizes are too small to yield meaningful conclusions. The largest sample is represented by two section of PHIL 100, with a total of 93 students assessed. The result for that assessment is acceptable at 2.45, but we would like to see that improve.

III.B. If the program participated in assessment of ISLOs this year:

- (1) What are the findings and/or conclusions drawn?
- (2) Does the program intend to make any changes or investigate further based on the findings? If so, briefly describe what the program intends to do. (**Reflection: ISLOs**)

Narrative

The Philosophy Program participated in the ISLO assessment for Citizenship through our PHIL 240 (Ethics) course. The assessment for our course indicated that the rubric targets were met.

IV.A. Indicate whether the program is continuing implementation of the last CPR strategy or revising the strategy. Please describe the modifications if revisions are intended.

Note: Any new strategies should be linked to Institutional Goals through creation of objectives in the next section. If the program has not yet participated in comprehensive program review, an annual or multi-year strategy can be defined in this item. **(Strategy for Program Enhancement: Continuation/Modification)**

Narrative

The strategy from the last CPR was to make more use of tutorial assistance for students via the Learning Center. We have been attempting to draw more students into the tutoring services; and we have been recommending students to serve as tutors. Through consultation with David Reed at the Learning Center, we hope to find tutors for our two logic courses (PHIL 103 and PHIL 200) which seems to be an area where some students need additional help. We have also conducted special afternoon workshops for students who need help with logic.

IV.B. Based on the most recent CPR and any desired modifications, develop an annual action plan with related resource requests. No narrative response will be entered in this section, but the objectives you create will be printed automatically in the APP report under this item.

(1) To begin, click on PLANNING at the top of the page, then CREATE A NEW OBJECTIVE. To view previously created objectives, click PLANNING at the top of the page, then VIEW MY OBJECTIVE.

(2) IMPORTANT! Make sure to associate each objective to this standard in the APP. Need help? Contact the PRIE Office for further instructions. **(Strategy for Program Enhancement: Action Plan and Resource Requests)**

Narrative

To support the new AA-T degree, we will need to add a course to our list of offerings each semester and hire an adjunct instructor to teach this additional course: Asian Philosophy, World Religions, and/or History of Philosophy on a rotating basis.

Task Details Report

Planning Year: 2017-2018

Planning Unit: Philosophy
Unit Manager: Colombetti, Carlos

Objective: 41 - Philosophy Program 2017-18

Objective Description:

Purpose of the Program:

The philosophy program aims to offer Skyline students a variety of courses in philosophy, including: Introduction to Philosophy, Critical Thinking (with logic and scientific methods), Formal Logic, Ethics, Political Philosophy, and World Religions. We also rotate courses in Philosophy of Religion, Asian Philosophy, and History of Philosophy. In addition to about 9 day sections per regular semester, we also offer evening and summer courses. Each semester (including summer) we offer a hybrid version of PHIL 103 (Critical Thinking) on the Canvas platform. The philosophy program collaborates with the Honors Transfer Program: we offer one honors course (usually Ethics or World Religions) each year.

The mission of Skyline College is "to empower and transform a global community of learners." The philosophy program contributes to this mission by designing curriculum that helps students to become more aware of themselves, their social world (from local to international), and the environments in which these are situated. We train our students to think abstractly and with logical rigor (Intro to Philosophy, Logic, and Critical Thinking). We aim to equip students with the academic resources they need to become better critical thinkers on matters that pertain to human intellectual traditions, to shared knowledge, to ways of understanding, to the fundamental nature of reality, and to moral, political, and aesthetic values (Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics, and Political Philosophy). Philosophy students explore the ideas of great thinkers from a variety of philosophical movements and cultural perspectives (Asian Philosophy, World Religions). They study the logic, criteria, and methods for justifying a belief on the basis of evidence. The study of philosophy provides personal enrichment through a better understanding of the self and the world. It also helps to instill the personal virtues requisite for a civilized and democratic society.

Start Date: 4/5/2017	Task Type: Department/Division/Unit	Priority Level: Medium	Task Order: 1
Due Date:	Completion Date:	Task Status: New/Pending	Budget: \$0

Create AA degree for Philosophy. This will be developed towards the end of the Spring semester and into the next semester. As this is in the very early stages, it is unclear yet how long this will take. Philosophy faculty will be involved, in consultation with the dean. No budget is needed for this plan.

Budget Remarks:

Date:	Name:	Remarks:
No Data to Display		

Budget Details:

GL Code	Account	Description	Requested	Approved
No Data to Display				

Assignment Details:

Name:	Email:
No Data to Display	

Task Details Report

Start Date:
4/5/2017

Task Type:
Department/Division/Unit

Priority Level:
Medium

Task Order:
2

Due Date:
8/1/2017

Completion Date:

Task Status:
New/Pending

Budget:
\$0

Changes to the PHIL 240 Ethics class. New textbook, lesson plans, and assignments. This will take place during the summer for the start of Fall semester 2017. No budget is needed for this plan.

Budget Remarks:

Date:	Name:	Remarks:
No Data to Display		

Budget Details:

GL Code	Account	Description	Requested	Approved
No Data to Display				

Assignment Details:

Name:	Email:
No Data to Display	
