

## 2018-19 Philosophy Annual Program Plan

### I.A. Program Profile: Purpose

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?

#### Narrative

Philosophy is a truth-seeking tradition that explores the most fundamental questions one can ask about *reality, knowledge, and values*. To have a philosophy is to have reasoned positions on these questions. The Philosophy program offers a range of courses that cover topics in epistemology, metaphysics, the history of ideas, religious studies (including comparative world religions and philosophy of religion) ethics, political theory, critical thinking (including scientific methods), and symbolic logic (including the predicate calculus, the rules of probability, and applications of Bayes' theorem). The program incorporates a range of historical and cultural perspectives, ancient and modern, Western and Asian. Our approach in the curriculum is to draw connections to other disciplines, such as history, psychology, physics, biology, mathematics, and the arts. We are committed to the view that all ideas are subject to examination and criticism in a spirit of academic freedom and civility.

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. Philosophy students explore the ideas of great thinkers from a variety of traditions and movements. 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). In particular, the subject of Critical Thinking has always been central to the discipline of Philosophy—our program offers the best venue for students to develop the ability assess or justify a claim on the basis of evidence. The program also provides members of our community with opportunities for personal enrichment. It helps to instill the intellectual virtues that are requisite for participating in a civilized and democratic society.

**I.B. Program Planning Team**

Annual program planning is intended to be a collaborative process which promotes dialogue and reflection. Please identify all individuals who contributed to or shaped the narrative. Include names and the title or role of each person.

**Narrative**

We are a single person department with two adjunct faculty members:  
Prof. Anton Zoughbie and  
Prof. Jeff Diamond (who teaches a cross-listed course PLSC/PHIL 280: Political Philosophy).

**II.A. Analysis: Progress on Prior Program Objectives (Goals) and Activities**

Describe the progress made on previously established program objectives (goals) including identification of achievements or areas in which further effort is needed. New programs which have not yet established CPR/APP objectives should discuss progress on program implementation or activities.

**Narrative**

The Philosophy program did not hire an additional adjunct faculty member to teach Asian Philosophy. Instead, this highly specialized course has been banked due to past low enrollment and cancelation. We hope to reinstate the course in a couple of years if the district/college enrollment numbers improve.

## **II.B. Analysis: Program Environment**

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.

### **Narrative**

The most significant internal change is the introduction of the Philosophy AA-T degree. To streamline our offerings, we have banked a course (Asian Philosophy) and dropped a course (History of Modern Philosophy) due to low enrollments and past cancelations. We expect to revisit the schedule of course offerings next semester to make sure that prospective PHIL majors have the opportunity to take the courses they need for the major. A few students have already declared an intention to major in Philosophy.

An external change that has affected 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). Last semester, three students successfully completed honors contracts in Phil courses.

**II.C. Analysis: Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs and PSLOs)**

- (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.

**Narrative**

Five courses were assessed Spring 2018 and Fall 2018: PHIL 160 (History of Ancient Philosophy), PHIL 312 (Philosophy of Religion), PHIL 100 (Introduction to Philosophy), PHIL 103 (Critical Thinking), and PHIL 240 (Introduction to Ethics). We learned from the results that the Philosophy program is doing well: all five assessments met the target of 2.0 (or 70%).

### **III.A. Reflection: Considering Key Findings**

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.

#### **Narrative**

All five SLO results show that the criteria were met.

We have recently made changes to the selection of texts, curriculum content, and assignments in two of our core course: PHIL 100 (Introduction to Philosophy) and PHIL 240 (Introduction to Ethics). We have also shifted our online PHIL 103 course (Critical Thinking) from the hybrid format to the fully online format.

We will track assessments for these courses over the next few semesters to try to determine if these changes make any significant difference.

Islo's reflection

The Philosophy Program did not participate in ISLO assessment during 2018 (we will be assessing the Critical Thinking ISLO this Spring).

### **III.B. Reflection: ISLOs**

If your 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.

#### **Narrative**

##### **Islo's reflection**

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**IV.A. Strategy for Program Enhancement: Continuation/Modification**

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.

**Narrative**

We are not revising any strategy at this time.

We will continue with the implementation of the new AA-T degree.



#### **IV.B. Strategy for Program Enhancement: Action Plan and Resource Requests**

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. Institutional Goals. Need help? Contact the PRIE Office for further instructions.

#### **Narrative**

The Philosophy program will work on the following for the 2019/20 academic year:

Implement our new AA-T degree; build a Philosophy Club; recruit potential PHIL majors; provide mentoring and transfer advice for PHIL majors; and (at the level of courses) continue to improve the curriculum.

No additional resources are requested at this time.

#### **Associated Objectives**

[923-Implement AAT- PHIL degree](#)