

Response:

- A. Few majors go on for advanced degrees in Philosophy. We have been successful placing undergrads in the PH.D. programs and in professional schools. We are among the top few schools in the country in placing our MA students in PH.D. Programs.
- B. See above A
- C-F. We believe successful completion of our major provides a sound basis to prepare students for these areas.

Documentation:

1. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Department of Philosophy  
Mission Statement

Philosophy is one of the oldest of the academic disciplines, yet it continues to flourish. Old texts receive new interpretations; traditional questions receive new answers; questions never before broached are asked and answered for the first time. The mission of the philosophy department has two components. One is to make it possible for members of the department to pursue the research and publication necessary for making the foregoing sorts of philosophical advances and disseminating them in the philosophical community. The other component of the mission is to offer an instructional program of the highest quality that will initiate a wider community into the ways of philosophical thought. This instructional program includes courses for the general university community, undergraduate majors, and graduate students in philosophy. Among these are courses introducing critical, systematic, and historical approaches to the study of philosophy, as well as courses of an interdisciplinary and applied nature. The program for undergraduate majors is designed to impact to the students a deeper understanding of the traditional areas and methods of philosophy, and an ability to write historically informed and well-argued papers in these areas. The masters degree program goes further requiring, in addition, that the student become conversant with contemporary perspectives in some subspecialty of the discipline. While the graduate program provides important training for any student who intends to pursue a career that requires analytical thinking, the program's special mission is to take students with nonstandard backgrounds and provide them with the training and credentials that will enable them to win admission to, and succeed in, quality doctoral programs in philosophy.

## 2. ASSESSMENT of PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

### Introduction

Our major is aimed at students who wish to use philosophy as the organization core of a liberal education, as a supplement enhancing the value of work in other fields, or as a solid foundation for graduate studies.

### Departmental Goals for Philosophy Majors

1. Familiarity with majors figures and issues in the history of Western Philosophy, both ancient and modern (beginning with the Pre-Socratics, Plato and Aristotle and running through Kant).
2. Proficiency in critical reasoning and familiarity with formal languages and logic (including the propositional and predicate calculi).
3. Knowledge of historical and contemporary developments in moral philosophy, which includes social and political philosophy.
4. Understanding of some of the major issues in metaphysics and epistemology, which include the philosophy of mind and the philosophy of science.
5. Ability to define and pursue a research project and write an historically-informed, well-argued paper on a contemporary problem, a particular philosophy, or a philosophic movement.

### Assessing Student Progress Toward Departmental Goals

1. For Goal 1, successful completion of 430 and 432, or equivalents.
2. For Goal 2, successful completion of 211, or equivalent.
3. For Goal 3, successful completion of at least one of the following: 341, 349, 355.
4. For Goal 4, successful completion of at least one of the following: 303, 317, 351, 324.
5. For Goal 5, successful completion of capstone course (681 or 685) or approved substitute.\*

[\*Instructor to submit an assessment of student s overall philosophy ability and maturity as evidenced in the capstone.]

### Overall Evaluation of Philosophy Major

1. During a student's last semester, the Undergraduate Advisor will arrange an exit interview in which information on the following will be solicited:
  - a. The appropriateness of goals for majors 1-5.
  - b. How well the successful completion of the major requirements insure meeting goals 1-5.
  - c. Adequacy of department guidance.
  - d. Range of course offerings and course availability.
  - e. Other suggestions for improving the major program and experience.
  - f. Post-graduation plans and where undergraduate education in philosophy may fit into those plans.
2. The Undergraduate Advisor will assemble a portfolio for each graduating student. The portfolio will include:
  - (i) a transcript, (ii) research paper submitted for capstone, (iii) capstone instructor's report on the student, (iv) any documentation of special achievements (e.g. awards, recognitions, recognitions, letters, etc.), and (v) results of the exit interview.
3. At a Fall department meeting the Undergraduate Advisor will review each student's portfolio and lead a discussion of the student's records and accomplishments. At this meeting the department will explore any implications this review of graduating majors may have for departmental policies, offerings, teaching, etc.
4. Based on the findings of the Fall review and other relevant data, the Curriculum Committee will prepare for consideration during the Spring semester a report dealing with the following:
  - a. Is the department meeting its present goals?
  - b. How might the department improve its performance relative to present goals?
  - c. Should the goals themselves be changed? (Additions, omissions, specific modifications to particular goals?)
  - d. If the goals are changed, what if any changes are needed in requirements, curriculum, policies, etc.?